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BASARA

Story and Art by Yumi Tamura

Vol. 27

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Vol. #27
Shôjo Edition

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Yumi Tamura

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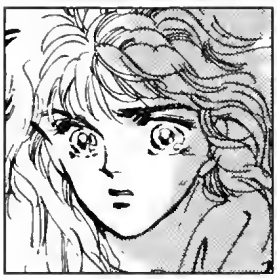
After a global apocalypse, Japan passed into the hands of tyrannical kings. At the birth of a rebel chieftain's twins, the blind prophet Nagi predicted, "This is a child of destiny, one who will grow to lead the people and be the light in the sky of our nation's future." But Tatara, the "Boy of Destiny," was killed by the Red King, one of the four sons of King Ukon XV. Tatara's twin sister, Sarasa, took up his name and his mission, vowing to lead Japan to freedom and peace.

Sarasa's quest has ended, but *Basara* continues! Enjoy this collection of special side stories exploring the characters and their world.



Sarasa
When Sarasa and her twin brother Tatara were born, a prophecy was made: "This is a child of destiny..." The people of Byakko Village raised Tatara as the "Boy of Destiny." But when Tatara is killed in battle, Sarasa takes up her brother's name and fights in his guise, not realizing that she is the real Child of Destiny.

The Red King
The youngest of King Ukon's four sons. Only a privileged few call him by his name, Shuri. When he allies himself with Sarasa's rebel forces, his plan to seize the throne from his tyrannical father changes to a dream of peace and freedom for Japan.

Masunaga
One of the four leaders of Kazuno who joined forces with Sarasa's army.

Tamon
One of the four leaders of Kazuno and holder of the sword of Genbu.

Hayato
Hayato first met Sarasa while *both* of them were posing as Tatara. He joined Sarasa's forces and occasionally impersonated Tatara to draw attention away from Sarasa. He is a descendent of the great Suzaku leader Rasho.

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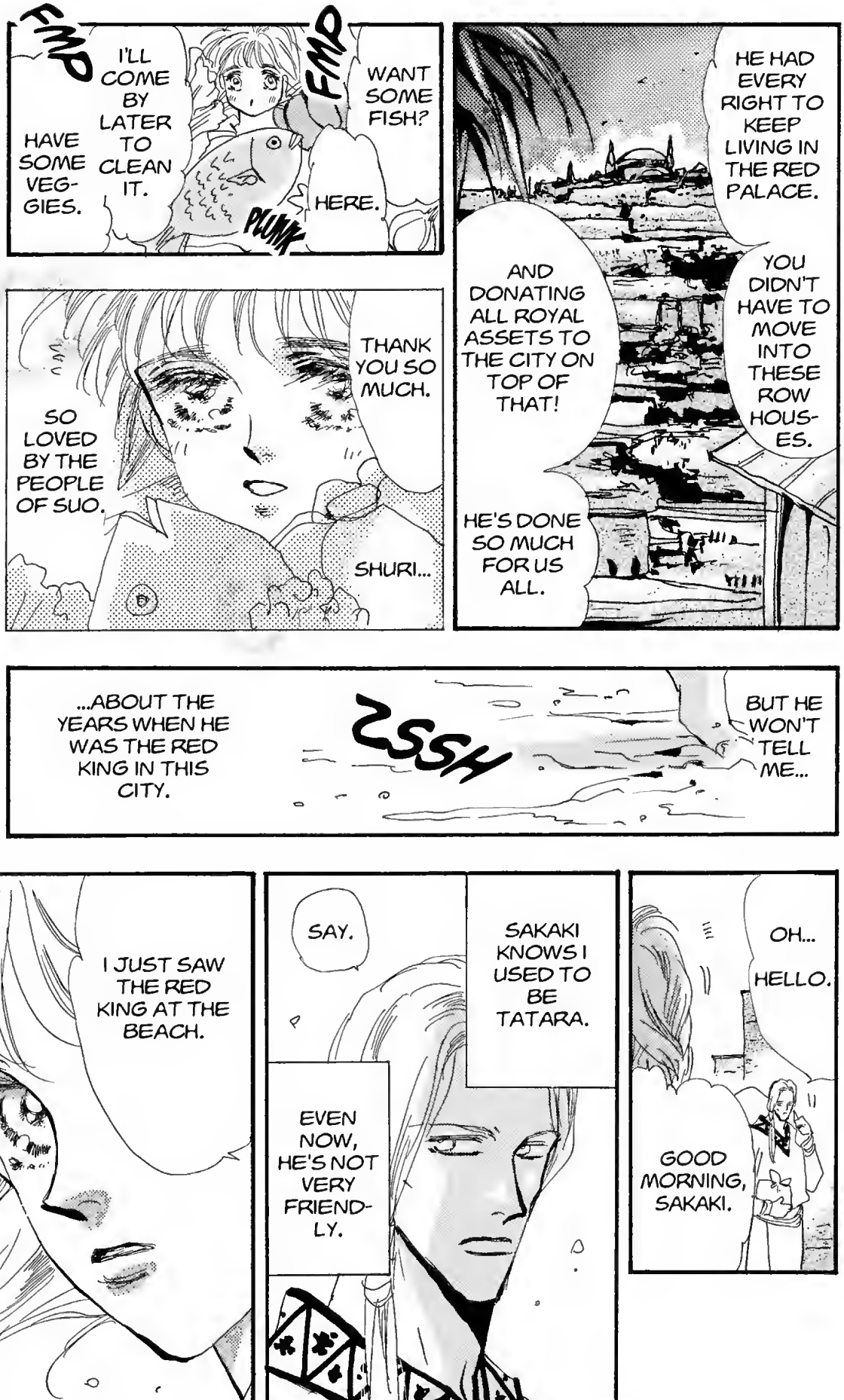
BASARA APPENDIX 6
KANATA
BEYOND
RED STORY: SILVERVINE

2255H

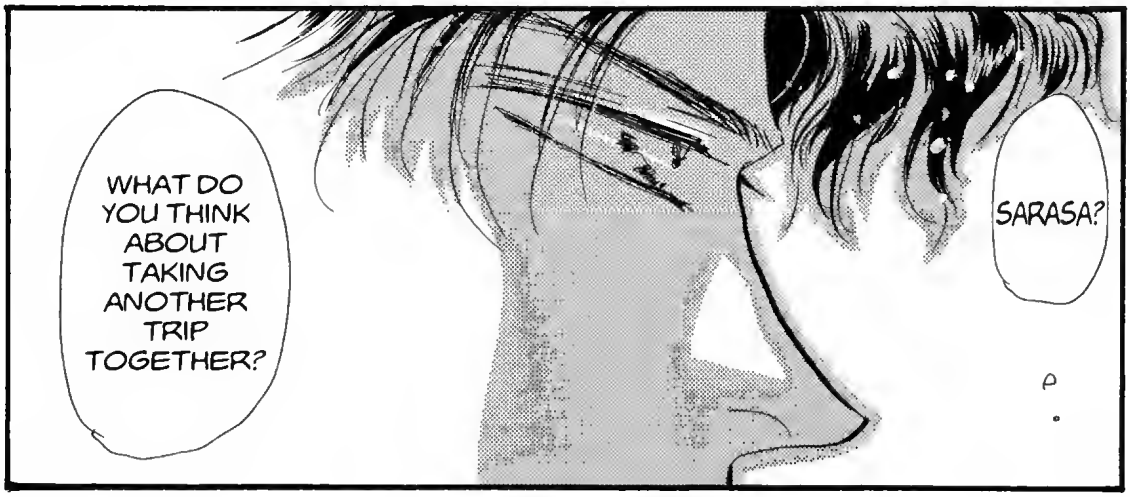
IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT...
...INTO THE ABYSS.
...I SEE SHURI... SINKING, SINKING...
I SIT, SAD AND AFRAID. BUT I CAN'T MOVE.
AS IF HIS HEART WILL STOP BEATING ANY SECOND.

...FOR WHAT HE DID WHILE HE WAS THE RED KING.
SHURI BLAMES HIMSELF...
ZSSH
ZSSH
HE'S NOT FINE AT ALL.
ZSH
GOOD MORNING.
HI, SARA-SA.
HOW'S THE RED KING DOING?
PLASH
NO.
HE'S MUCH BETTER, THANK YOU.

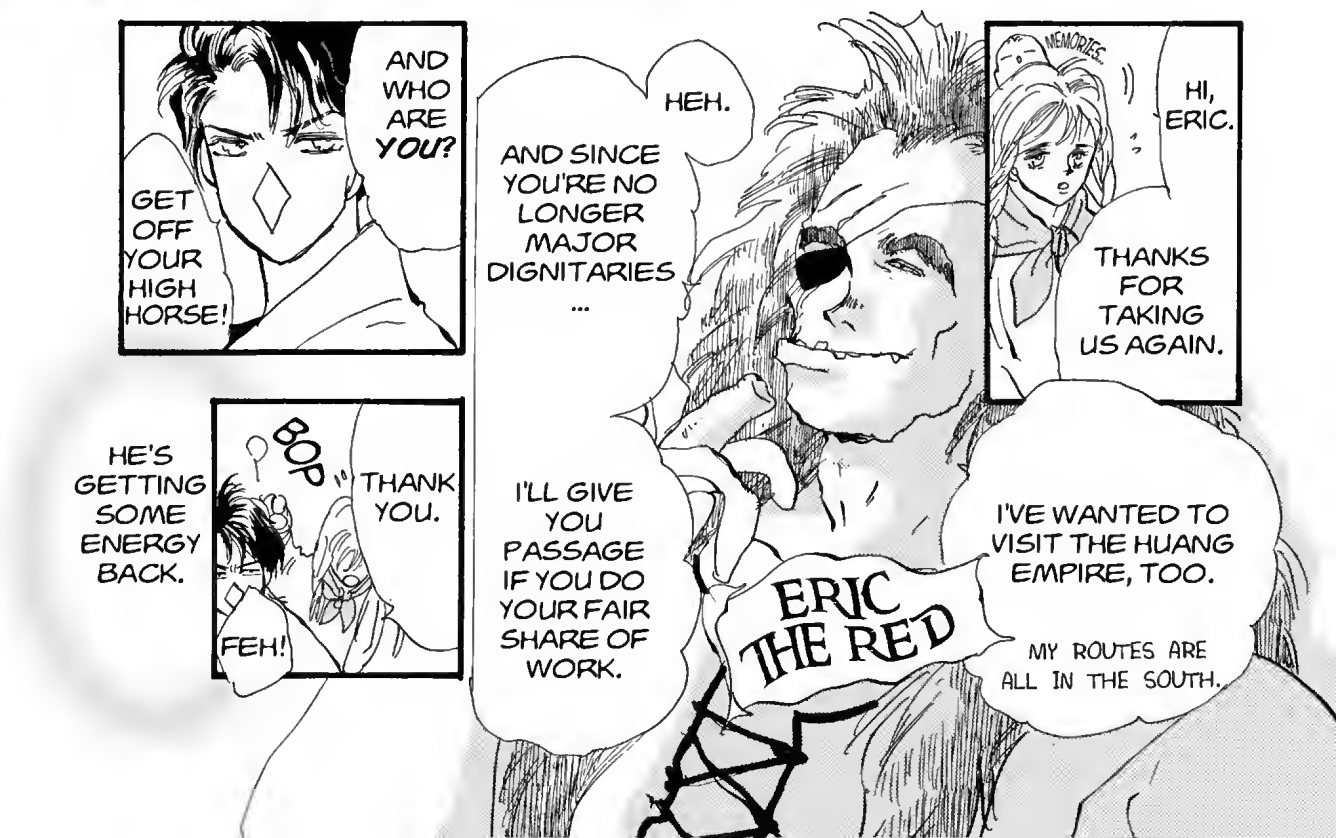

FMP
I'LL COME BY LATER TO CLEAN IT.
HAVE SOME VEG-GIES.
FMP
WANT SOME FISH?
PLUNK
HERE.
HE HAD EVERY RIGHT TO KEEP LIVING IN THE RED PALACE.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO MOVE INTO THESE ROW HOUS-ES.
AND DONATING ALL ROYAL ASSETS TO THE CITY ON TOP OF THAT!
HE'S DONE SO MUCH FOR US ALL.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
SO LOVED BY THE PEOPLE OF SUO.
SHURI...
...ABOUT THE YEARS WHEN HE WAS THE RED KING IN THIS CITY.
ZSSH
BUT HE WON'T TELL ME...
I JUST SAW THE RED KING AT THE BEACH.
SAY.
SAKAKI KNOWS I USED TO BE TATARA.
EVEN NOW, HE'S NOT VERY FRIEND-LY.
OH...
HELLO.
GOOD MORNING, SAKAKI.

SHURI!
PLASH

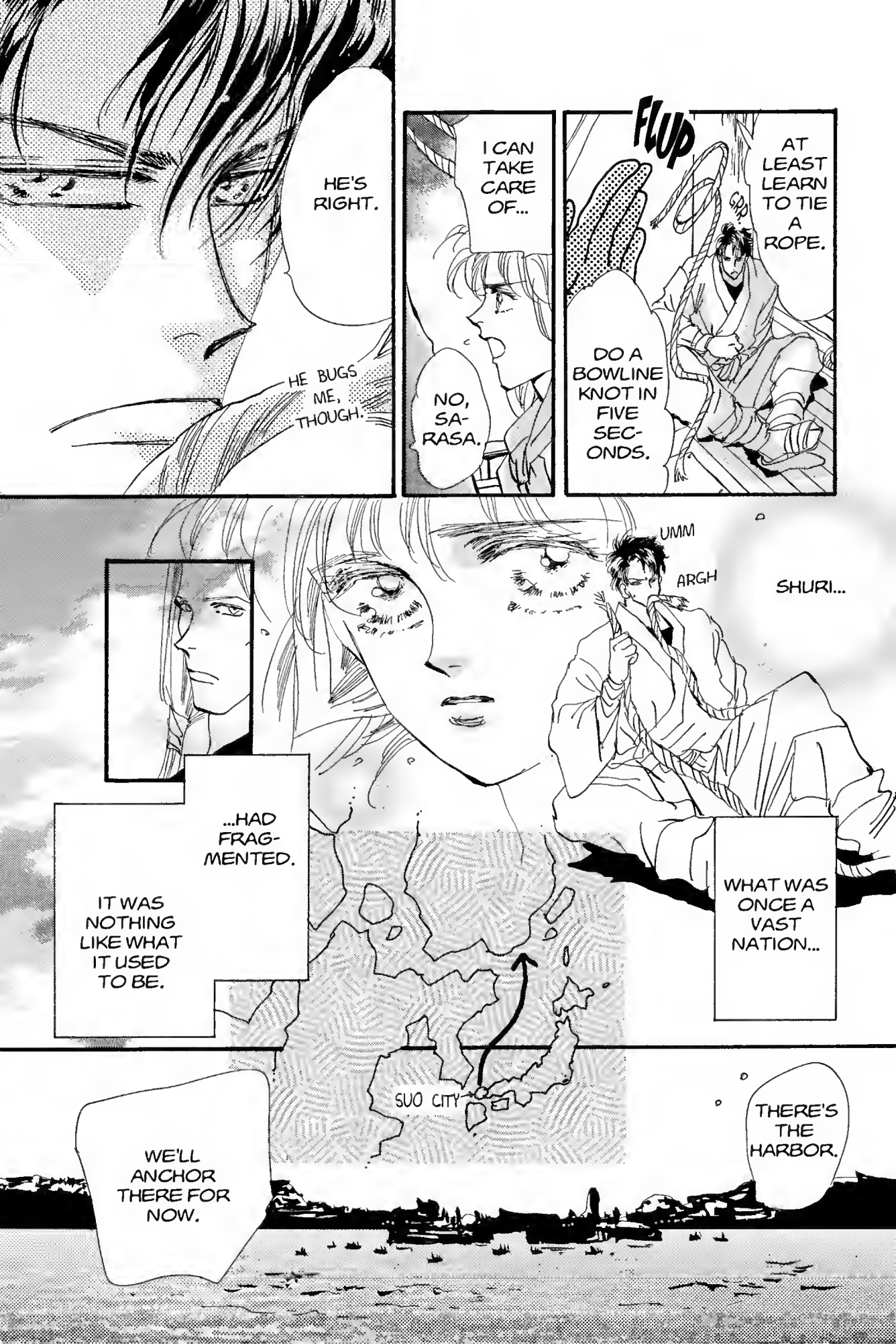
OH, SORRY.
WHAT'S THAT?
LOOK WHAT I FOUND.
HEY.
DON'T WORRY, SARASA.
I'M NOT GOING TO DROWN.
IT'S NOT SAFE!
STOP!
NO!
SHURI!
ZSH
LSH

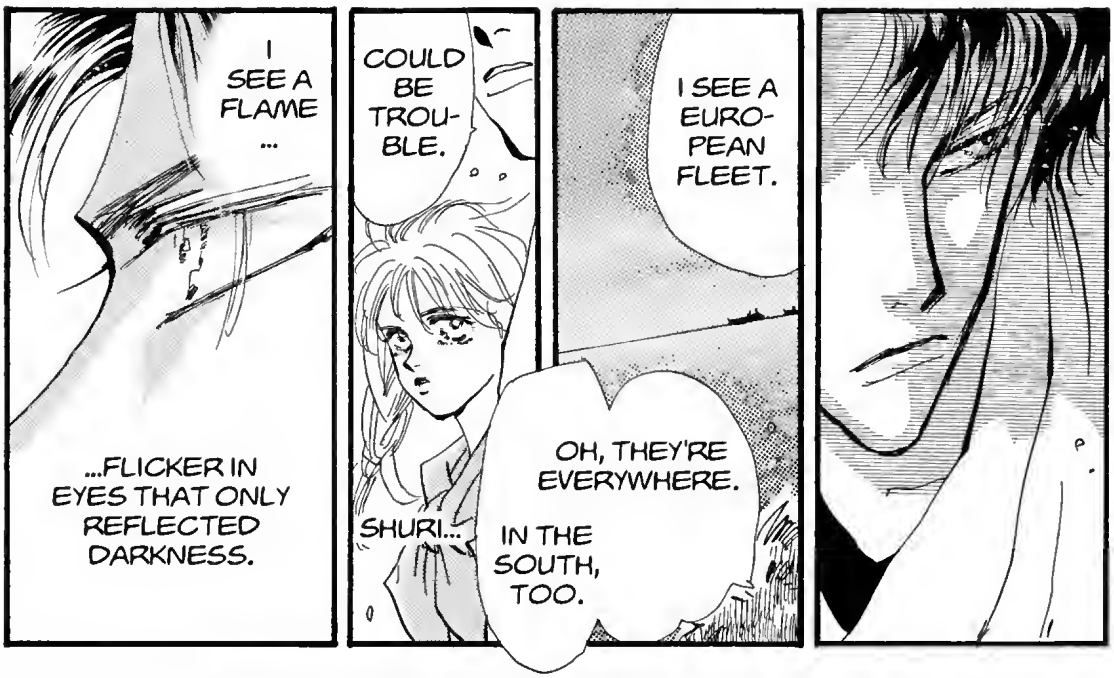

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT TAKING ANOTHER TRIP TOGETHER?
SARASA?

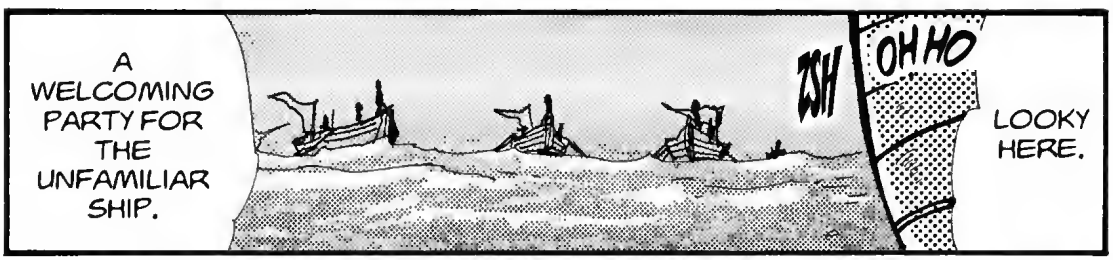
CAP'N!
THESE FIRE-WORKS ARE THE LAST TO LOAD!
ONTO OUR SHORES LATELY.
A VALUABLE FROM THE HUANG EMPIRE. THINGS FROM THERE HAVE BEEN WASHING UP...
THIS IS...
A STATUE OF A KYLIN, A MYTHICAL CHIMERA.
ALL RIGHT! GET READY TO SET SAIL!
SUO CITY, HIKOSHIMA HARBOR


AND WHO ARE YOU?
GET OFF YOUR HIGH HORSE!
HEH.
AND SINCE YOU'RE NO LONGER MAJOR DIGNITARIES ...
I'LL GIVE YOU PASSAGE IF YOU DO YOUR FAIR SHARE OF WORK.
MEMORIES...
HI, ERIC.
THANKS FOR TAKING US AGAIN.
I'VE WANTED TO VISIT THE HUANG EMPIRE, TOO.
MY ROUTES ARE ALL IN THE SOUTH.
ERIC THE RED
HE'S GETTING SOME ENERGY BACK.
BOP
THANK YOU.
FEH!

SHURI SOUNDS MORE...
...LIKE HIMSELF AGAIN.
I'VE TRADED WITH THE HUANG EMPIRE...
...A FEW TIMES BEFORE.
SPECIAL TRADE SHIPS.
HEY.
LESS CHIT-CHAT, MORE WORK.
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO LOST A LIMB IN THE WAR.
IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD.
MAYBE WE CAN BE OF HELP...
WE'LL GO MEET THE EMPEROR.
THEN WE LOST CON-TACT WITH THEM.
HE MADE ME LEARN THE LAN-GUAGE.
BUT THIS IS MY FIRST VISIT.
NOTES
TOO BUSY FOR TRADE.
IF SUCH AN ITEM GOT LOST AS FLOTSAM ...
A KYLIN IS A SACRED BEAST...
AND SYMBOL OF THE EMPER-OR.
THERE MAY BE POLITICAL UP-HEAVAL.

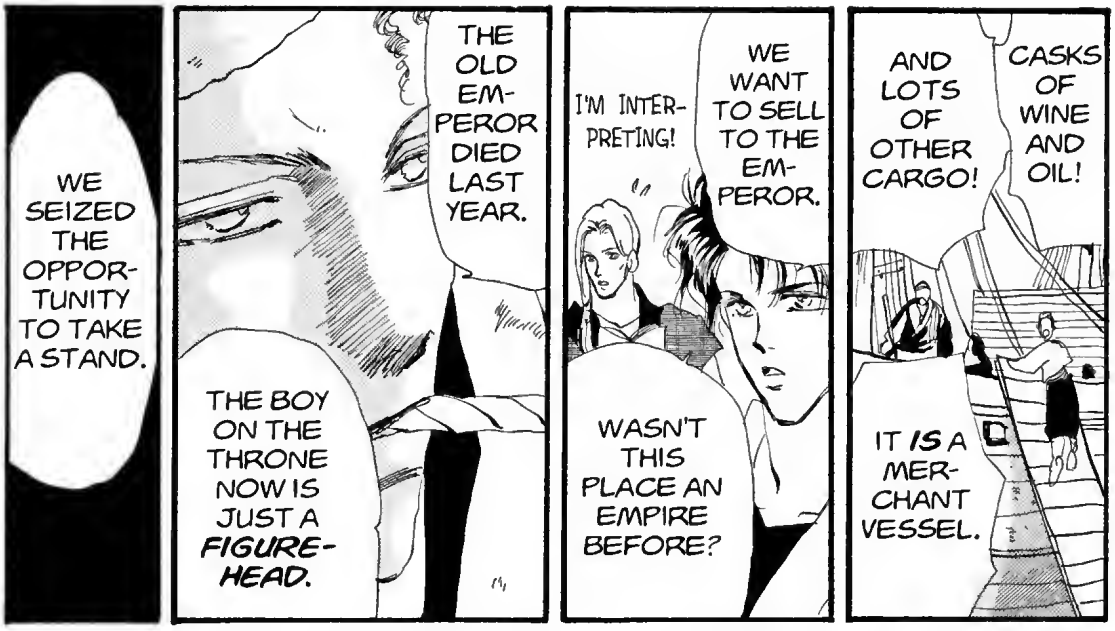

HE'S RIGHT.
HE BUGS ME, THOUGH.
I CAN TAKE CARE OF...
NO, SA-RASA.
FLUP
GRP
AT LEAST LEARN TO TIE A ROPE.
DO A BOWLINE KNOT IN FIVE SEC-ONDS.
UMM
ARGH
SHURI...
WHAT WAS ONCE A VAST NATION...
...HAD FRAG-MENTED.
IT WAS NOTHING LIKE WHAT IT USED TO BE.
SUO CITY
THERE'S THE HARBOR.
WE'LL ANCHOR THERE FOR NOW.


I SEE A FLAME ...
...FLICKER IN EYES THAT ONLY REFLECTED DARKNESS.
COULD BE TROU-BLE.
SHURI...
I SEE A EURO-PEAN FLEET.
OH, THEY'RE EVERYWHERE.
IN THE SOUTH, TOO.

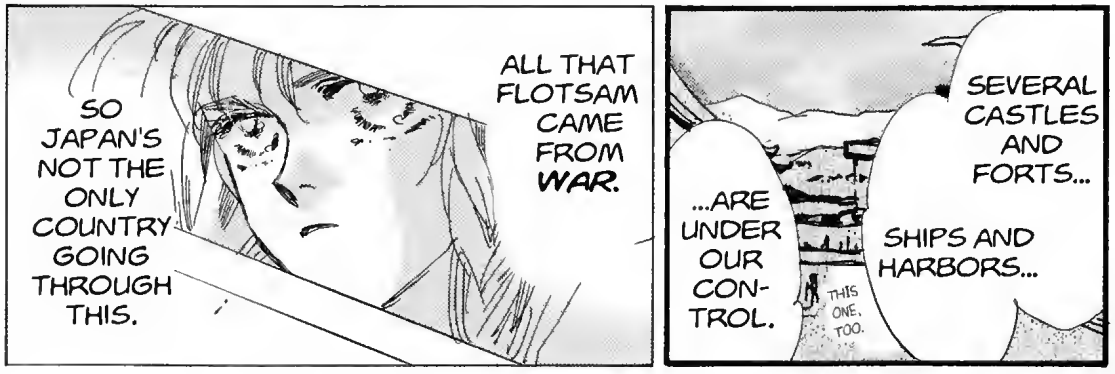

A WELCOMING PARTY FOR THE UNFAMILIAR SHIP.
ZSH
OH HO
LOOKY HERE.

I DON'T RECOG-NIZE THE FLAG.
THEY MIGHT NOT LET US THROUGH.
WHAT'S WRONG, SIRE?
SORRY, LORD SHURI!
THERE'S NO KING HERE!
OOPS!
SARASA, HIDE.
HUH?
NOW.

WHAT'S YOUR AFFILIATION?
BRING YOUR SHIP TO SHORE AND PREPARE TO BE BOARDED!
DID THE EMPIRE FALL?
WHIP
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOUR SHIP BEFORE.
WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
AND TELL US WHY YOU'VE VIOLATED OUR WATERS.
TRANSLATING.
MAYBE...
I THINK THAT'S WHAT HE SAID...
WE'RE MERCHANTS FROM JAPAN.


WE SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE A STAND.
THE OLD EMPEROR DIED LAST YEAR.
THE BOY ON THE THRONE NOW IS JUST A FIGUREHEAD.
I'M INTERPRETING!
WE WANT TO SELL TO THE EMPEROR.
WASN'T THIS PLACE AN EMPIRE BEFORE?
CASKS OF WINE AND OIL!
AND LOTS OF OTHER CARGO!
IT IS A MERCHANT VESSEL.

WE'RE THE CHITANS, THE MOUNTAIN FOLK.
WE'RE FIGHTING TO WIN INDEPENDENCE...
FROM A LONG HISTORY OF OPPRESSION.


SO JAPAN'S NOT THE ONLY COUNTRY GOING THROUGH THIS.
ALL THAT FLOTSAM CAME FROM WAR.
...ARE UNDER OUR CONTROL.
THIS ONE, TOO.
SEVERAL CASTLES AND FORTS...
SHIPS AND HARBORS...

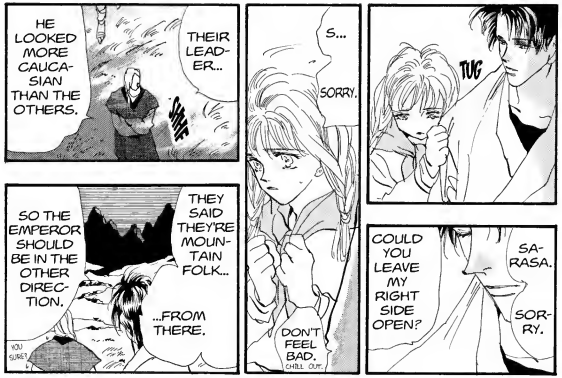
WHOSE SIDE WILL SHURI TAKE?
WAIT.
WE COULD USE SOME TRADE.
COME ...
WHAT HAP-PENED TO YOUR ARM?
ARE YOU REALLY A MER-CHANT ?
TELL HIM IT'S NONE OF HIS BUSINESS!
HOW DO YOU WISH TO RESPOND?
I SEE.
YOU...
...ARE A CRIMINAL.
SEIZE HIM!

WSH
LOCK HIM UP.
HE COULD BE THE EMPEROR'S SPY.
HYUUU
BKKK
PMM PMM
BH
WHOA!
SA-RASA!
MAKING MORE CHAOS...
SHURI, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
THIS ISN'T LOOKING GOOD FOR US!
MUU
WEE
BH
OUCH
HOT!
WAAH
BOOM
BH
BOOM
BUT THESE ARE FOR SALE!
LIGHT THEM ALL!
JAPANESE FIREWORKS FETCH A LOT OF MONEY, YOU KNOW!

KOFF KOFF
SO...
...I'M THE REAL MERCHANT.
WANT AN ACCOUNT WITH US?
GOT SOME GOOD DEALS FOR YA!
THANKS!
BE CAREFUL!
WE'RE VETERAN SMUGGLERS. THIS PROCESS IS OLD NEWS.
I'M USED TO IT.
POP POP
ERIC!
TROUBLE FOLLOWS YOU EVERYWHERE!
I CAN'T LEAVE MY SHIP.
WE'LL BE FINE.
TTT TTT TTT
TTT
WE'LL GO SEE THE EMPEROR.
STOP CALLING ME "SIRE"!
DON'T ASK ME!
BUT WHERE IS HE?
TTT
HFF HFF
NOW WHAT, SIRE?
WE DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO!

AGEHA?
SL
IP
DSH
WHOA!
OMP
WHAT?
AN AQUE-DUCT?
WOW ...
C'MON, SAKAKI!

HE CAN'T BE HERE.
HE'S NOT HERE!
BDUMP
BDUMP
BDUMP
BDUMP
BDUMP
BDUMP
HF
HF
HF
BAM
BMP
BMP
UM...
UM.
EX-CUSE ME.
COULD YOU TELL ME HOW TO GET TO...


HE LOOKED MORE CAUCASIAN THAN THE OTHERS.
THEIR LEADER...
SHIT
S...
SORRY.
DON'T FEEL BAD. CHILL OUT.
TUG
SO THE EMPEROR SHOULD BE IN THE OTHER DIRECTION.
YOU SURE?
THEY SAID THEY'RE MOUNTAIN FOLK...
...FROM THERE.
COULD YOU LEAVE MY RIGHT SIDE OPEN?
SA-RASA.
SORRY.

SHURI...
WELL, IT'S TRUE.
SO I'M A CRIMINAL.
THEY'RE ALL SCARED.
SI... LORD SHURI.
HERE...
...THEY PUNISH CRIMINALS BY CUTTING OFF THEIR ARMS.

IT'S SO COLD...

WE'RE AT HIGH LATITUDES.
IT'S PRETTY COLD.
ISN'T IT STILL SUMMER HERE?
WE'LL FREEZE IF WE CAMP OUT IN THE OPEN, SIR.

FWAP

KAGERO?
NO.

FWEEE
IT'S A HAWK.
I WANT ONE.

...EVEN IN BATTLE...
...AS IF I WERE LOOKING INTO A MIRROR.

COLD...

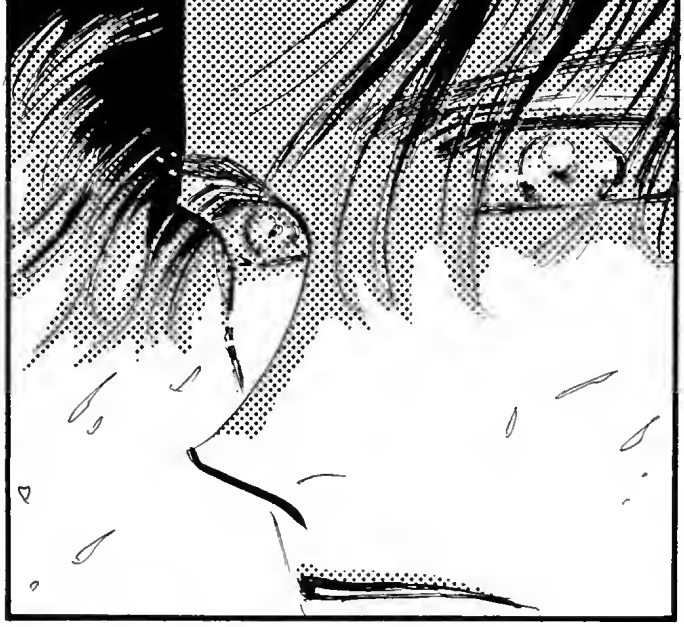
SHURI FEELS...
...SO FAR AWAY.

I USED TO FEEL SO CONNECTED TO HIM...

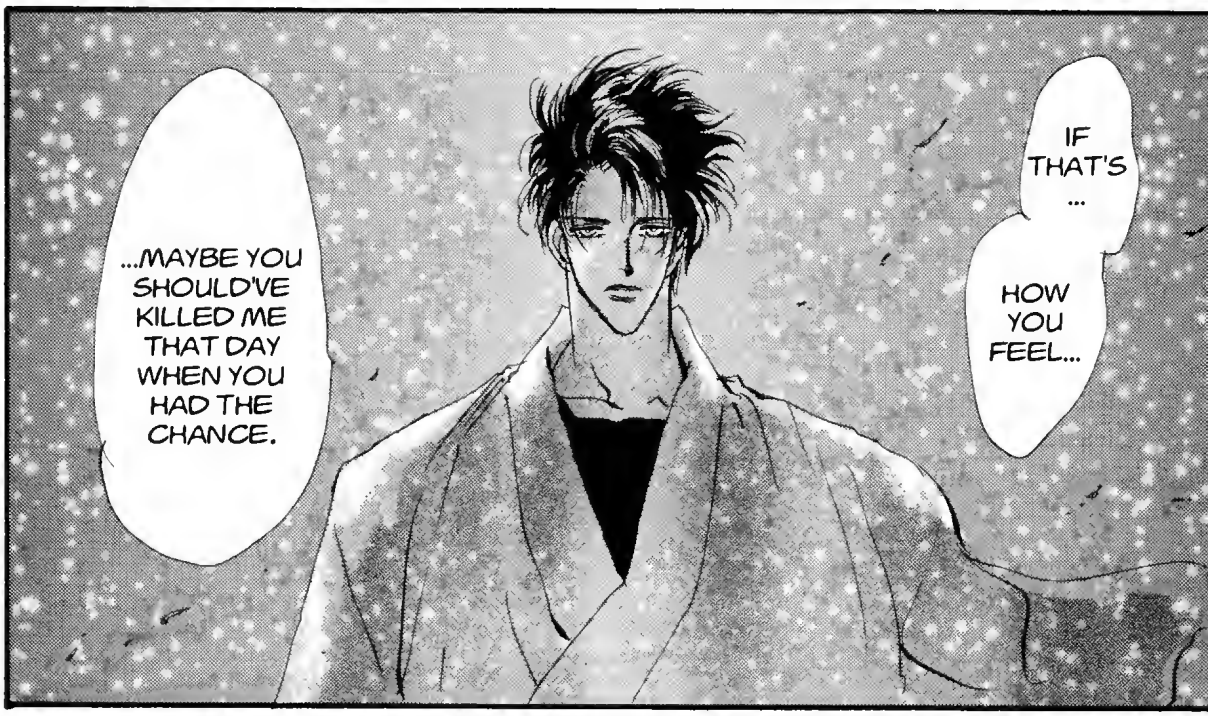
AGEHA!
TSH
ALIVE?
ALL THIS TIME?
HFF HFF
HFF
HFF
WAS HE ALIVE?
WAAH!
AGEHA!
AGEHA!!
AGEHA!

ARE YOU FROM JAPAN, MISS?
PERHAPS YOU'VE MISTAKEN ME FOR SOMEONE ELSE.
UH!
HIC.
UNH!
WAAH!
AAAAH!
AAAH
POP
PCH

SNIF
SOB
HIC
WHEN WE NOMADS...
WERE HUNTED DOWN, MANY ESCAPED TO THE MAINLAND.
I'M ONE OF THE SURVIVORS.
I WAS ALSO BORN IN JAPAN.
POP HSS
PROBABLY THE SAME REGION AS YOUR FRIEND.
AS A TRAVELING PHARMACIST, YOU SEE.
I'M ON THE ROAD...
IT GETS COLD AT NIGHT.
YOU MAY CAMP IN THAT SHACK.
I'LL SLEEP IN MY WAGON.
SNIF
HIC
I CAN'T TALK ABOUT AGEHA ...
... WITH YOU.
HIC
DON'T CLING TO A STRANGER LIKE THAT.
YOU CAN ALWAYS CRY ON MY SHOULDER.
HE SEEMS SHADY...
SA-RASA.



YOU'RE THE ONE...
WHO PUT OUT HIS EYE!
AGEHA WAS PRO-TECTING ME...

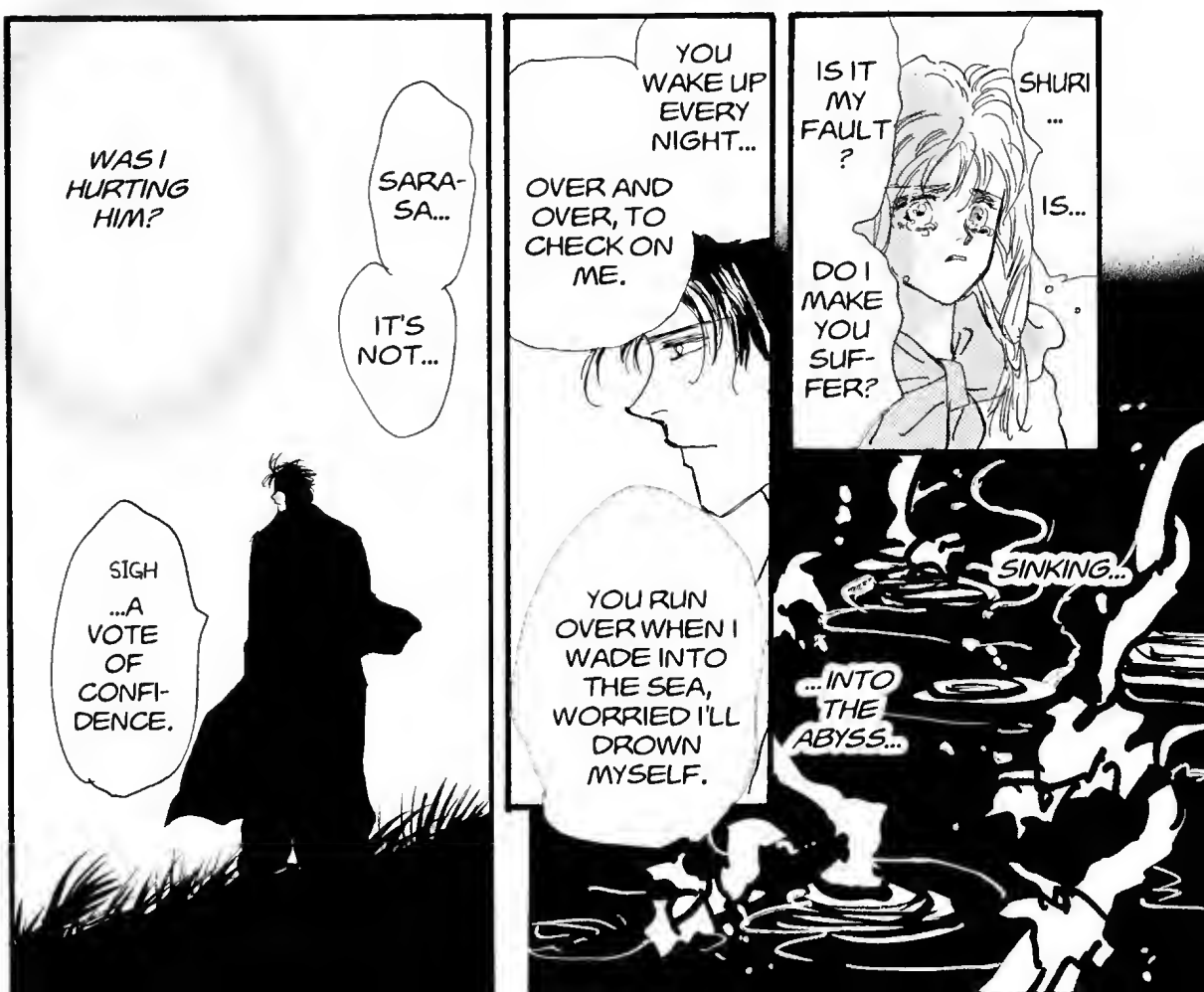

IF THAT'S ...
HOW YOU FEEL...
...MAYBE YOU SHOULD'VE KILLED ME THAT DAY WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE.

TATARA.

SHURI!
I DIDN'T SAY THAT!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I SAID!

YOU CAN'T PROVIDE HIM ANY COMFORT.
YOU TREAT HIM SO GINGERLY...
DOES THAT REALLY MAKE HIM FEEL BETTER?
LIKE HE'S A PITIFUL, DAMAGED CREATURE!
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE FOR YOU...
TO STAY WITH HIM.
SA-KAKI ...
AND LOOK AT YOU!
YOU'RE PLANTING EVEN MORE FEELINGS OF GUILT AND DEFEAT IN HIM.
HOW CAN YOU GIVE HIM SOLACE?
HS
SH
AS A KING ...
AS A MAN...
HE'S FEELING VULNERABLE AND UNSURE.
TO MAKE HIM THINK HE WAS BETTER OFF DEAD?
IS THIS A FORM OF REVENGE?
TATARA?

DON'T YOU DARE MAKE SARASA CRY.
I'LL MAKE NO ALLOWANCES, NOT EVEN FOR YOU.
S...
SIRE!
WHO ASKED FOR YOUR ANALYSIS?
WAM
I'M NOT A KING!
IDIOT!

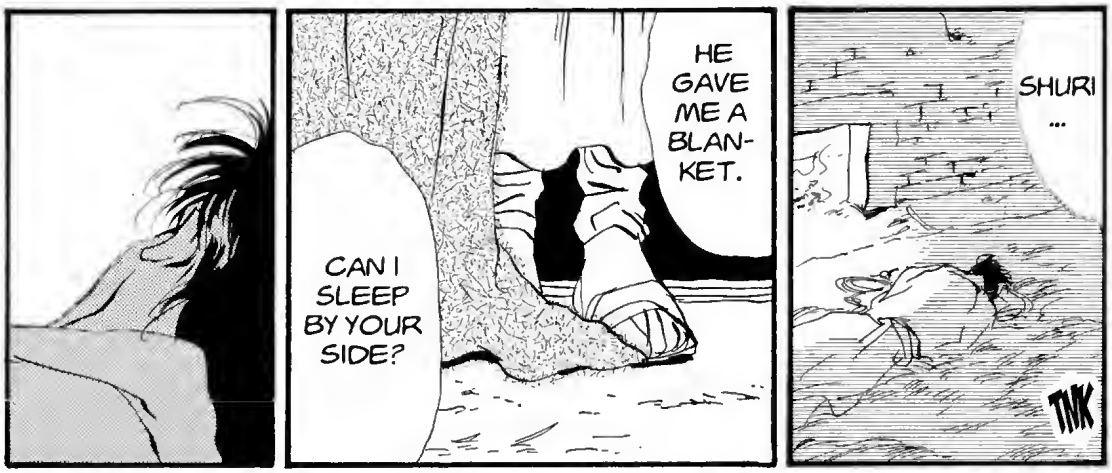

WAS I HURTING HIM?
SARA-SA...
IT'S NOT...
SIGH ...A VOTE OF CONFI-DENCE.
YOU WAKE UP EVERY NIGHT...
OVER AND OVER, TO CHECK ON ME.
YOU RUN OVER WHEN I WADE INTO THE SEA, WORRIED I'LL DROWN MYSELF.
IS IT MY FAULT?
SHURI...
IS...
DO I MAKE YOU SUF-FER?
SINKING...
...INTO THE ABYSS...

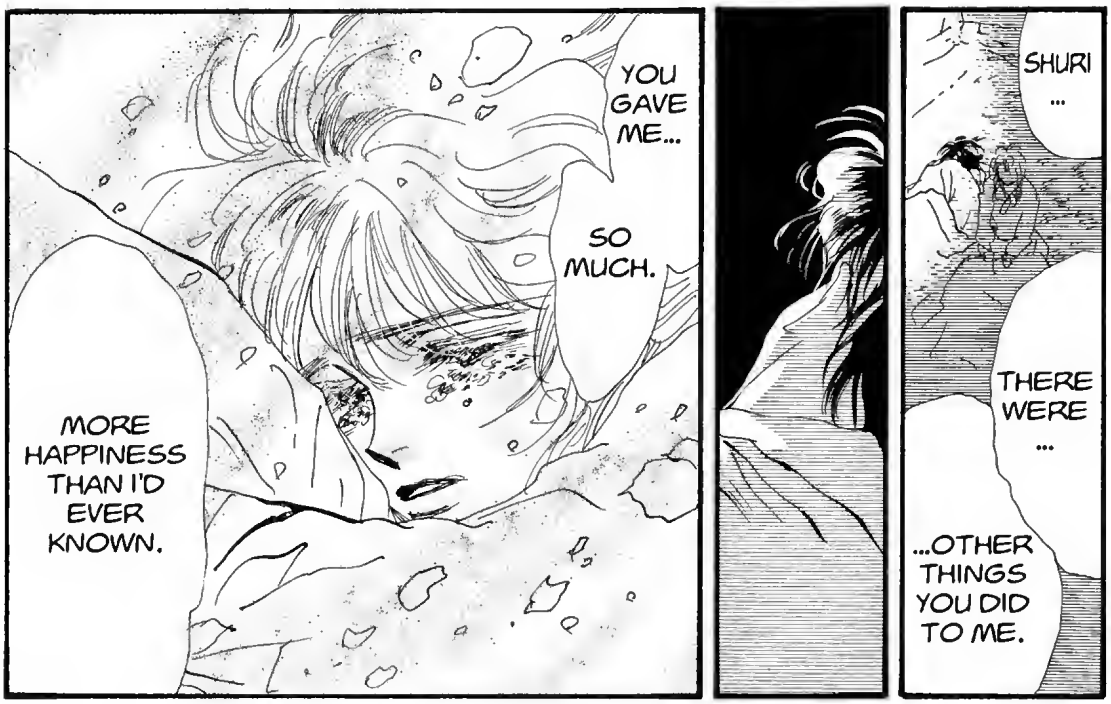
WHAT ELSE?
WHAT ELSE DID I DO TO YOU?
BACK THEN!
SO...
THAT WAS *YOU.*
I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING.
I STAND BY MY CREED.
I DON'T REGRET THEM.
...AS THE RED KING...
THE THINGS I DID...
...I'D TAKE THEM BACK IF I COULD!
...ONLY YOU...
BUT THE THINGS I DID TO *YOU*...

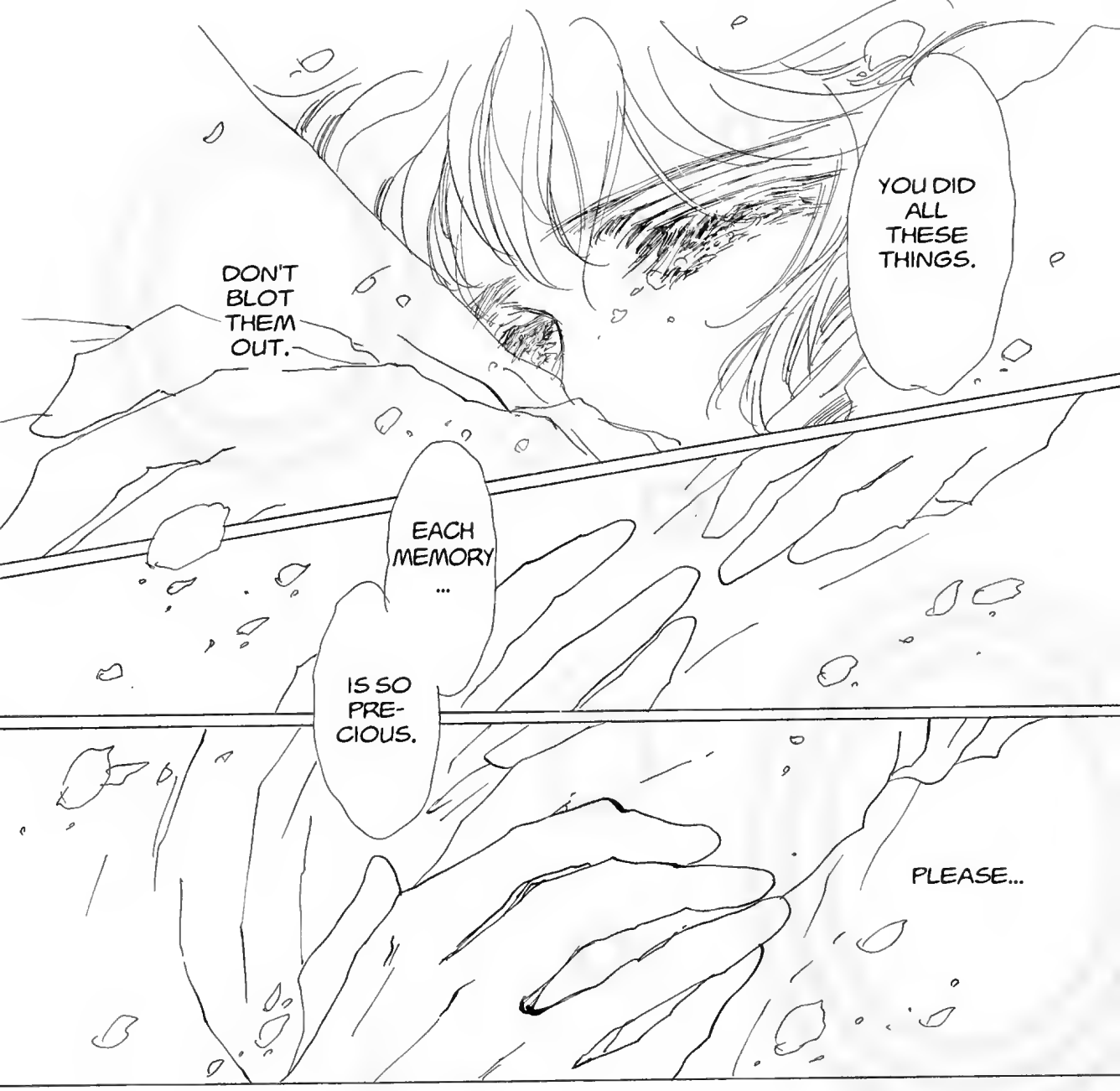
WE THOUGHT AT THE TIME...
...WE COULD PUT EVERYTHING BEHIND US.
HOW?
HOW CAN I MAKE IT UP TO YOU?
WHAT CAN I DO?
BUT...
...I DON'T WANT TO LET YOU GO.
I KNEW I COULD EXPOSE YOU TO DANGER HERE.
BUT I COULDN'T BEAR TO LEAVE YOU BEHIND.
I VOWED I'D NEVER LET YOU GO!

FSH
I CAN'T EVEN TIE A ROPE.
I WON'T LET YOU GO.
BUT I LACK THE ARMS TO HOLD YOU TO ME.
I BROUGHT BLANKETS.
I HEAR JAPAN HAS FOUND PEACE NOW.
THERE ARE NO SUCH GUARAN-TEES DURING WAR.
DO YOU BELIEVE THERE WILL ALWAYS BE PEACE IN THE FUTURE?
THAT YOU'LL HAVE CHANCES TOMORROW TO SAY THINGS LEFT UNSAID TODAY?
BUT THEN ...
THINGS GET LEFT UNSAID.

IT'S ALWAYS THIS WAY.
TODAY IS ALL WE HAVE.

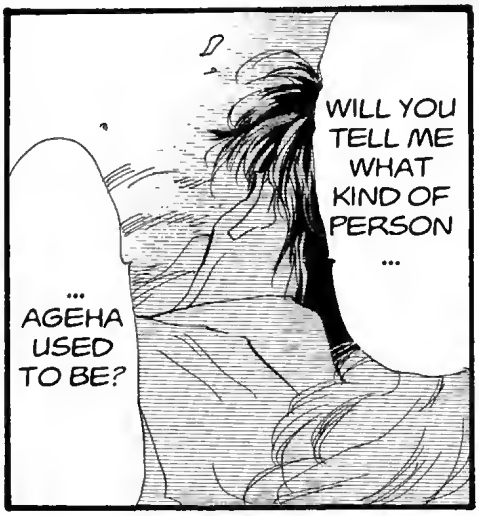

HE GAVE ME A BLAN-KET.
CAN I SLEEP BY YOUR SIDE?
SHURI ...
TNK


YOU GAVE ME...
SO MUCH.
MORE HAPPINESS THAN I'D EVER KNOWN.
SHURI ...
THERE WERE ...
...OTHER THINGS YOU DID TO ME.


YOU DID ALL THESE THINGS.
DON'T BLOT THEM OUT.
EACH MEMORY ...
IS SO PRE-CIOUS.
PLEASE...

WANT TO SLEEP IN THE WAGON?
ACHOO!
I CAN'T GO IN.
I'M FINE.

GLAD-LY.


WILL YOU TELL ME WHAT KIND OF PERSON ...
... AGEHA USED TO BE?

I FORGOT TO ASK HIS NAME.
ARGH.
HE STILL SEEMS SHADY.
THE YOUNG EMPEROR IS CURRENTLY IN HIS SUMMER VILLA.
GOODBYE.
DOWN THE RIVER.
THIS IS A BATTLE-FIELD, SO BE CAREFUL.
THANK YOU FOR COMING SO FAR.
WELCOME. I AM THE EMPEROR.
MY NAME IS KYLIN.

WILL YOU LEND US TROOPS ?
DID FATHER HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH JAPAN?
YES.
HE IS THE RED KING OF JAPAN.
AH, YES.
IT MATCHES THE SEAL OF THE TRADE SHIP.
YOUR HIGHNESS ?
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
!
HE SAW THAT ...
...IN THE MIDST OF THE FRAY?
THE TOOLS AND WEAPONS THEY HAD...
LOOKED EUROPEAN TO ME.
THE CHI-TANS ...
SEEM TO HAVE HELP...
FROM EUROPE, RIGHT?
I'M NOT TRANSLATING "IDIOT."
IF YOU BORROW TROOPS FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY...
THEY'LL ONLY TURN ON YOU AFTER THE WAR.

...DON'T REALLY CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THIS COUNTRY.
I...
WHY DOES HE SAY THINGS I CAN'T REPEAT?
THEN THEY'LL POCKET ALL THE MONEY.
THEY'LL PRE-TEND TO HELP.
GET A FOOT IN THE DOOR. START A PROXY WAR.
...MY COUNTRY WILL BE IN DANGER, TOO!
BUT IF THIS LAND BECOMES A EUROPEAN COLONY...
GET IT?
THAT'S WHY...
I'VE COME HERE.
I MUST PREVENT THAT AT ALL COSTS.

IT'S FINE, PREMIER NAHA.
I THINK HE SAID SOME RUDE THINGS.
I GET IT.
THAT'S WHY...
HE'S HERE FOR JAPAN!
WE ARE SURE TO WIN IF WE CAN HOLD OUT THROUGH THE SUMMER.
NOT TO WORRY ... SHURI.
AN HERB...
THAT ONLY GROWS IN THE IMPERIAL HERB GARDEN.
IT'S CALLED THE RED SICKNESS...
AND THERE IS ONLY ONE CURE.
EVERY YEAR AT THIS TIME...
AN EPIDEMIC BREAKS OUT.

THE ENEMY HAS COME TO ATTACK!
FWOO
WHAT?
FWOO
SIR!
TM TM TM
ENEMY ATTACK!
FWOO
THE REBELS NEED THE HERB, SO THEY SURRENDER.
IT'S THE SAME EVERY YEAR.
WEAR THESE COATS.
IT'S COLD OUT.
HURRY, THIS WAY.
COME, QUICKLY.
TAKE THE EMPEROR THROUGH THE PASSAGE.
WE'LL CHECK AHEAD.
PLEASE REST, YOUR HIGHNESS.
TM TM
ANOTHER AQUEDUCT.
IT'S SPLENDID WORK!
TM TM TM

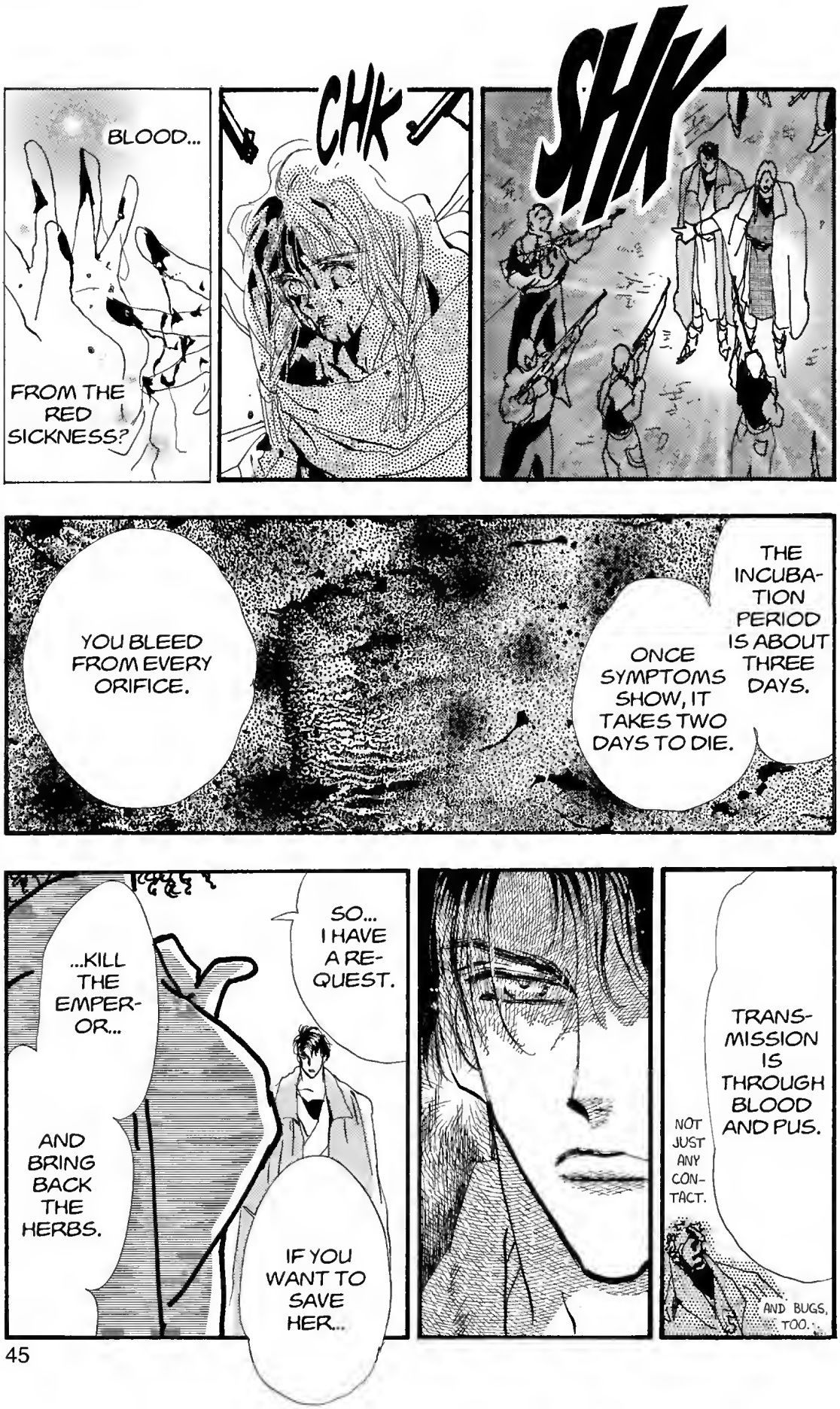
BUT THAT TOOK 20 SECONDS.
I'M A GENIUS!
I DID IT!
I HAVE TO DO IT IN FIVE.
HEY
YOU SEEM TO BE EN-JOYING YOUR-SELF.
SHAY WHAH?
HM.
A BREAK.
FMP
WHEW.
I HATE NOT BEING ABLE TO DO THINGS. IT DRIVES ME CRAZY.
MAYBE.
LET'S START WITH YOUR NAME...
IF YOU HAVE TIME, HE SAYS.
SHURI, TEACH ME JAPAN-ESE.
SURE.

WHEN I WAS IN A TOHOKU PRISON...
...THERE WAS A BOY CALLED TATSUMI.
SHURI?
LIKE THIS.
NO...
IT'S NOT A HAPPY STORY. YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW.
I WANT TO HEAR IT.
I DO WANT TO KNOW.
WHAT YOU FELT...
I WANT YOU TO TELL ME EVERYTHING.
THE PEOPLE YOU'VE MET...
PEOPLE YOU KNEW...
WAS THAT BEFORE THE BUDDHA INCIDENT?
YES.
WHY WERE YOU IN PRISON?
THAT IDIOT SOLD ME AS A SLAVE.
HEY!
COME ON!
A CROWD WILL BE TOO CONSPICUOUS.
YOU GO THE OTHER WAY.

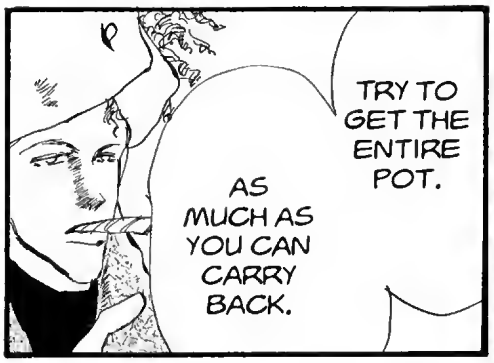
OBVIOUSLY...
SON GO-KU.
ME?
TRIPI-TAKA.
PIGSY.
AND YOU?
SAN-DY.
SAME "SA" SOUND.
HEY, IF ERIC WERE HERE...
WE'D BE THE JOURNEY TO THE WEST.*
THIS IS LIKE A MAZE.
TM TM
TM TM
IT'S SPLEN-DID WORK!
*A CLASSIC CHINESE SAGA ABOUT A MOTLEY GROUP OF PILGRIMS. THE MOST FAMOUS CHARACTER IS SON GOKU, THE MONKEY KING.
SHURI...
YOU SAID IT!
AND HE'S AN IDIOT!
GAH
PFFT
I'M THE MON-KEY?

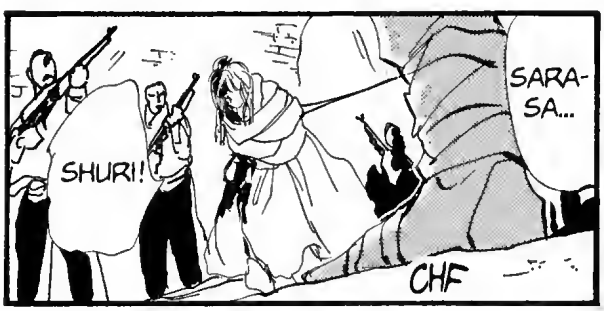
FLASH

SARASA!
WHAT THE...
WHAT'S THIS?
PEH
BLOOD!
OUR FIRST CASUALTY OF THIS YEAR'S RED SICKNESS.
THAT'S HIS BLOOD.
DON'T MOVE!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE FRIENDS WITH THE EMPEROR.
CHK
CHK
CHK
CHK
IF WE'D KNOWN, WE WOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU ESCAPE SO EASILY.


BLOOD...
FROM THE RED SICKNESS?
CHK
SHK
YOU BLEED FROM EVERY ORIFICE.
ONCE SYMPTOMS SHOW, IT TAKES TWO DAYS TO DIE.
THE INCUBATION PERIOD IS ABOUT THREE DAYS.
...KILL THE EMPEROR...
AND BRING BACK THE HERBS.
SO... I HAVE A REQUEST.
IF YOU WANT TO SAVE HER...
NOT JUST ANY CONTACT.
TRANSMISSION IS THROUGH BLOOD AND PUS.
AND BUGS, TOO.

SUC-
CEED
OR
FAIL...
...YOU CAN
BLAME IT
ON THE
FOREIGN-
ERS.


TRY TO
GET THE
ENTIRE
POT.
AS
MUCH AS
YOU CAN
CARRY
BACK.


SARA-
SA...
SHURI!
CHF

IVOR.

AND
WHAT...
...IS
YOUR
NAME?

SHU-
RI...

DON'T
GET ANY
CLOSER.
STAY
BACK.

WAIT FOR ME.
I'LL COME BACK FOR YOU.

I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW...
I'M THE ORIGINAL RED CURSE!
THE RED SICK-NESS?
PAH!

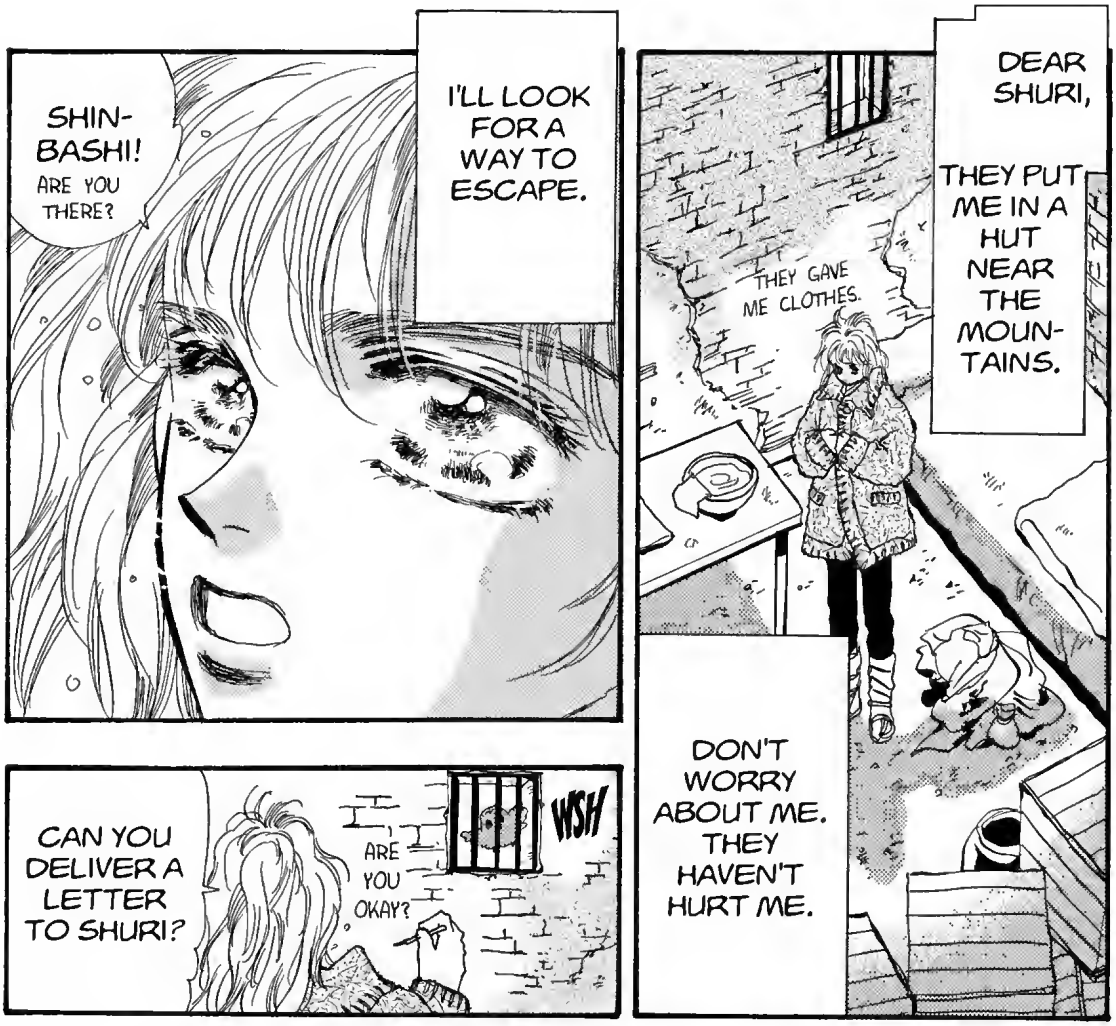
WHOA
EW
HE'S INFECT-ED!
HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW FATAL IT IS!

DID YOU THINK HE'D PAY YOU BACK TIT FOR TAT?
YOU'LL REGRET TAKING HIM LIGHTLY.
HE SMILED.
HAS HE GONE MAD?
COME, SAKAKI!
Y...
YES, SIR!
TMP
NO. HIS REVENGE WILL BE A HUNDRED TIMES WORSE THAN WHAT YOU DID TO HIM!
AN EYE FOR AN EYE?
...OF HIS PLANS FOR YOU.
FILLED WITH ANTICIPATION...
I'M SURE HE LEFT EXCITED...
...TO MAKE HIM FEEL BETTER.
THANK YOU... FOR HELPING...

...UNTIL MY REVENGE IS ABOUT *EIGHT* TIMES MORE PAINFUL.
BY THE WAY...
I WON'T STOP...
IDIOT!
YOU THINK I DON'T HAVE A PLAN?
FOLLOW ME!
COME ON, SAKAKI!
SIRE!
ARE WE REALLY GOING TO GO KILL THE EMPEROR?

THE RED SICKNESS...

TWO DAYS AFTER THAT, YOU'RE DEAD.
THE INCUBATION PERIOD IS THREE DAYS.
WILL HE KILL THEM ALL?
ARGH!
IF YOU WANT TO SAVE HER...
...KILL THE EMPEROR AND BRING BACK THOSE HERBS!
SAKAKI, BACK TO THE PORT!
THE CHITANS WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!
HIS REVENGE WILL BE TERRIBLE!
THIS IS THE KING...


SHIN-BASHI!
ARE YOU THERE?
I'LL LOOK FOR A WAY TO ESCAPE.
DEAR SHURI,
THEY PUT ME IN A HUT NEAR THE MOUN-TAINS.
THEY GAVE ME CLOTHES.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. THEY HAVEN'T HURT ME.
CAN YOU DELIVER A LETTER TO SHURI?
WISH
ARE YOU OKAY?

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?
SIRE!
SIRE!
THE PORT IS DAN-GEROUS!
I'M NOT AFRAID, SHURI.
I'M NOT.
WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS ...
...THEY FEAR SO MUCH?

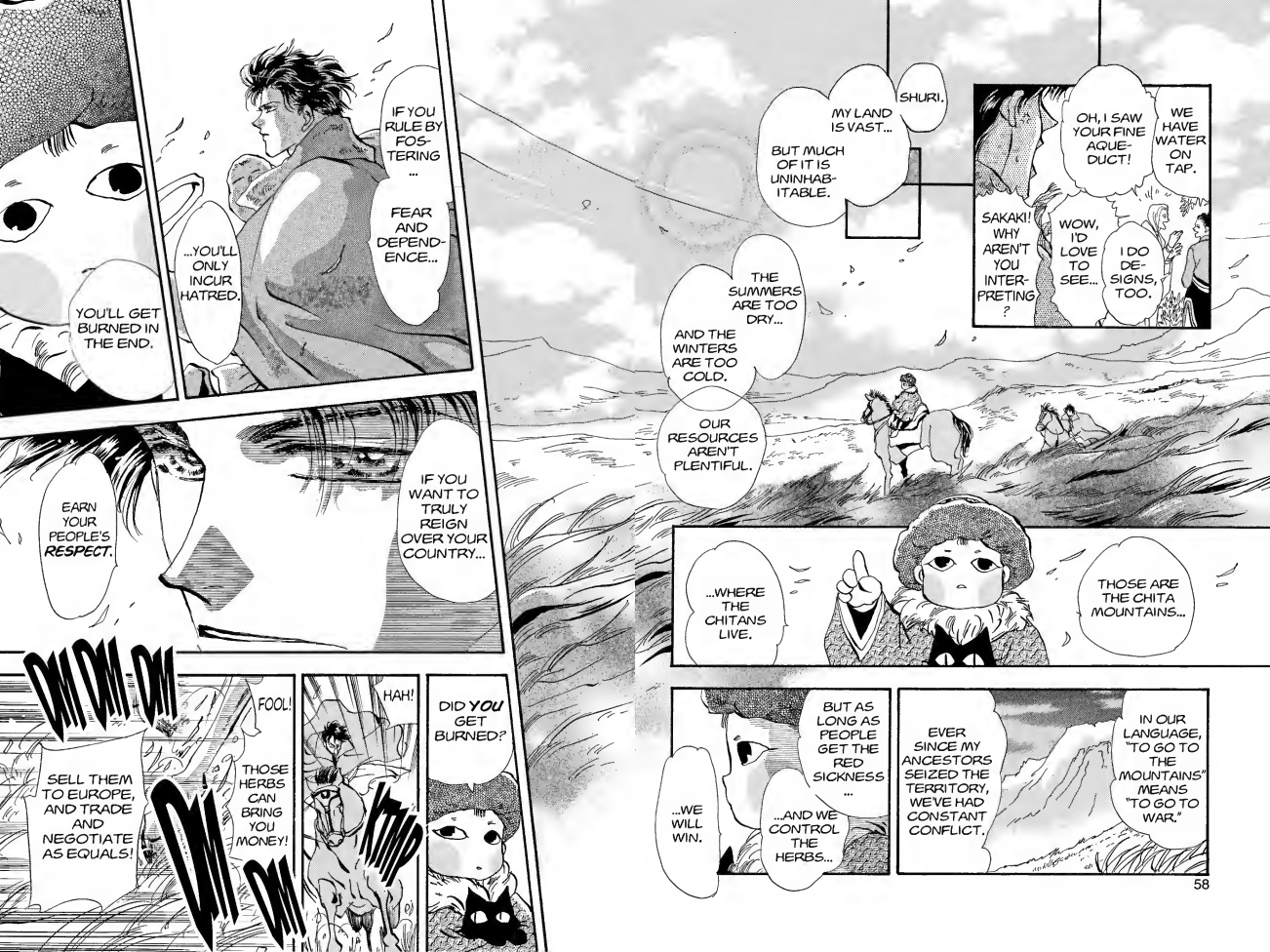
I'M ONE OF THE SAKAI SONS!
I HAVE A PACKAGE FOR YOU FROM A KIKUNE IN JAPAN.
HEY, I'VE BEEN LOOKIN' FOR YOU!
SHHF
OH! RED KING!
I MEAN, SHURI!
I'LL GET A SHIP!
STOP CALLING ME SIRE!
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
A-AND DO WHAT?
MY ELDEST BROTHER'S IN CHARGE OF THE DOMESTIC FRONT, AND I WAS TOLD TO EXPAND ABROAD.
I'M HERE FOR RESEARCH.
AND A DELIVERY! ♡
THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF OPPOR-TUNITIES FOR TRADE.
HOW'D YOU FIND ME?
HUH?
SIGN HERE.
YUP!
JAPAN'S DOIN' MUCH BETTER, THANKS TO YOU PEOPLE.

I SAW SOME MENACIN' EUROPEAN SHIPS OFF THE COAST...
BUT THEY CAN'T BULLY US. IT'S THE AGE OF MERCHANTS NOW.
HAVE A NICE DAY.
THAT WAS QUITE A SURPRISE.
WINDS OF CHANGE ...
BYE!
SHF
WHAT DID YOU GET?
MAY I OPEN IT?
THE TIMES ARE CHANGING.
YES, I KNOW.
MERCHANTS ARRIVE...
...IN NEW TERRITORY LONG BEFORE POLITICIANS.
SIRE!
MANUAL TO SHURI'S
IT'S A PROSTHETIC ARM!
PULL THE STRING IN THE ELBOW TO TRIGGER THE ROCKET PUNCH...
ALL UNIQUE!
THE FINGERS HAVE BUILT-IN KNIVES AND HOOKS.
AND A FORK.
KLONG
I'M NOT USING THIS!
IDIOT!
IT'S A TOY!
HEY

THIS IS HOW WE STARTED.
I'LL BE FINE.
SHURI!
WSH
WSH WSH WSH
SA-RASA!
DEAR SHURI...
DEAR SHURI
NEAR THE MOUNTAINS. DON'T
ABOUT ME. THEY
...SINCE I'VE SENT YOU A LETTER.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...
SARASA...
HE'S CHANGED SOME-HOW...
WHAT?
I'M GOING TO SEE THE EMPEROR!
NEW PLANS!
TSH
WE'RE NOT GOING TO THE PORT?
WHAT?
SA-KAKI.
HUH?
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.

THE RAGE IS GONE!
SIRE!
MAY I SEE YOUR HERB GARDEN?
I'M SORRY, BUT THE HERB GARDEN IS TOP SECRET...
AH!
THERE YOU ARE.
SURE.
CAN YOU RIDE A HORSE, SHURI?
SIR!
THIS WHOLE AREA IS THE GARDEN.
WE GROW EVERY KIND OF HERB AND MEDICINAL PLANT.
THOSE TOWERS SERVE AS GREEN-HOUSES.

PRACTICING KNOTS.


YOU'LL GET BURNED IN THE END.
...YOU'LL ONLY INCUR HATRED.
IF YOU RULE BY FOS-TERING ...
FEAR AND DEPEND-ENCE...
EARN YOUR PEOPLE'S RESPECT.
IF YOU WANT TO TRULY REIGN OVER YOUR COUNTRY...
SELL THEM TO EUROPE, AND TRADE AND NEGOTIATE AS EQUALS!
FOOL!
THOSE HERBS CAN BRING YOU MONEY!
HAH!
DID YOU GET BURNED?
SHURI.
MY LAND IS VAST...
BUT MUCH OF IT IS UNINHAB-ITABLE.
THE SUMMERS ARE TOO DRY...
AND THE WINTERS ARE TOO COLD.
OUR RESOURCES AREN'T PLENTIFUL.
SAKAKI! WHY AREN'T YOU INTER-PRETING?
OH, I SAW YOUR FINE AQUE-DUCT!
WE HAVE WATER ON TAP.
WOW, I'D LOVE TO SEE...
I DO DE-SIGNS, TOO.
...WHERE THE CHITANS LIVE.
THOSE ARE THE CHITA MOUNTAINS...
...WE WILL WIN.
...AND WE CONTROL THE HERBS...
BUT AS LONG AS PEOPLE GET THE RED SICKNESS ...
EVER SINCE MY ANCESTORS SEIZED THE TERRITORY, WE'VE HAD CONSTANT CONFLICT.
IN OUR LANGUAGE, "TO GO TO THE MOUNTAINS" MEANS "TO GO TO WAR."

THAT'S HOW THINGS WORK!
DON'T BE PUSH-OVERS!
BE EQUALS WITH THE WEST!
THAT'LL EXCITE YOUR PEOPLE!
THEN SELL IMPORTS FROM EUROPE!
PEOPLE WILL STOP BUYING!
ONCE THEY ENTER THE MARKET, THEY'LL BE USELESS!
THAT'S HOW YOU OPEN YOURSELF UP TO THE WORLD!
BUT ...
...WE WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD THE CHITANS IN CHECK.
IF THE EMPIRE CAN ONLY SUSTAIN ITSELF THROUGH SUPPRESSION ...
...IT DESERVES TO PERISH.

IF ANY-ONE ...
ADVISES YOU TO SEEK AID FROM EUROPE...
...WATCH OUT FOR HIM.
YOU THINK THERE'S A SPY?
IT'S MORE THAN LIKELY.
THE CHITANS ARE CLEARLY GETTING AID FROM EUROPE.
I BET PEOPLE IN YOUR INNER CIRCLE HAVE REACHED OUT TO EUROPE AS WELL.
WHAT'S HE PLANNING?
WE HAVE TO HURRY...
WISH
SHIN-BASHI!
...OR THEY'LL BOTH GET SICK!
SEND A LETTER TO SA-RASA.
ROGER!
SIRE ...
SIRE, WE CAN TALK LATER.
WE NEED TO GET THE HERBS!
SHIN-BASHI!

!
SHURI!
DEAR SARASA...
CAN YOU LURE OUT THEIR LEADER?
DEAR SARASA, BE CAREFUL. CAN YOU LURE OU THEIR LEADER TONIGHT? I HAVE AN IDE
THEIR LEADER?
TK
I'M HERE TO INTER-PRET.
I'M NOT ON EITHER SIDE, YOU SEE.
HUH?
OH!
BUT YOU'RE ...
KCH
CAN I HELP?
WIND...
IT MEANS "ONE BROUGHT BY THE WIND."
YOU CAN CALL ME SADHA.
MY NAME IS SADHANA.

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY CHIT-CHAT.
CHF
THE CHITAN LEADER...
IVOR!
DO YOU BELIEVE YOUR PRINCE WILL SAVE YOU?
NORMAL CAPTIVES CRY OR COWER IN FEAR.
ARE THE JAPANESE SO DIFFERENT?
YOU'RE AN ODD GIRL.

NORMAL?

WISH
MAY I, SADHA !?
WHAT?
TIP

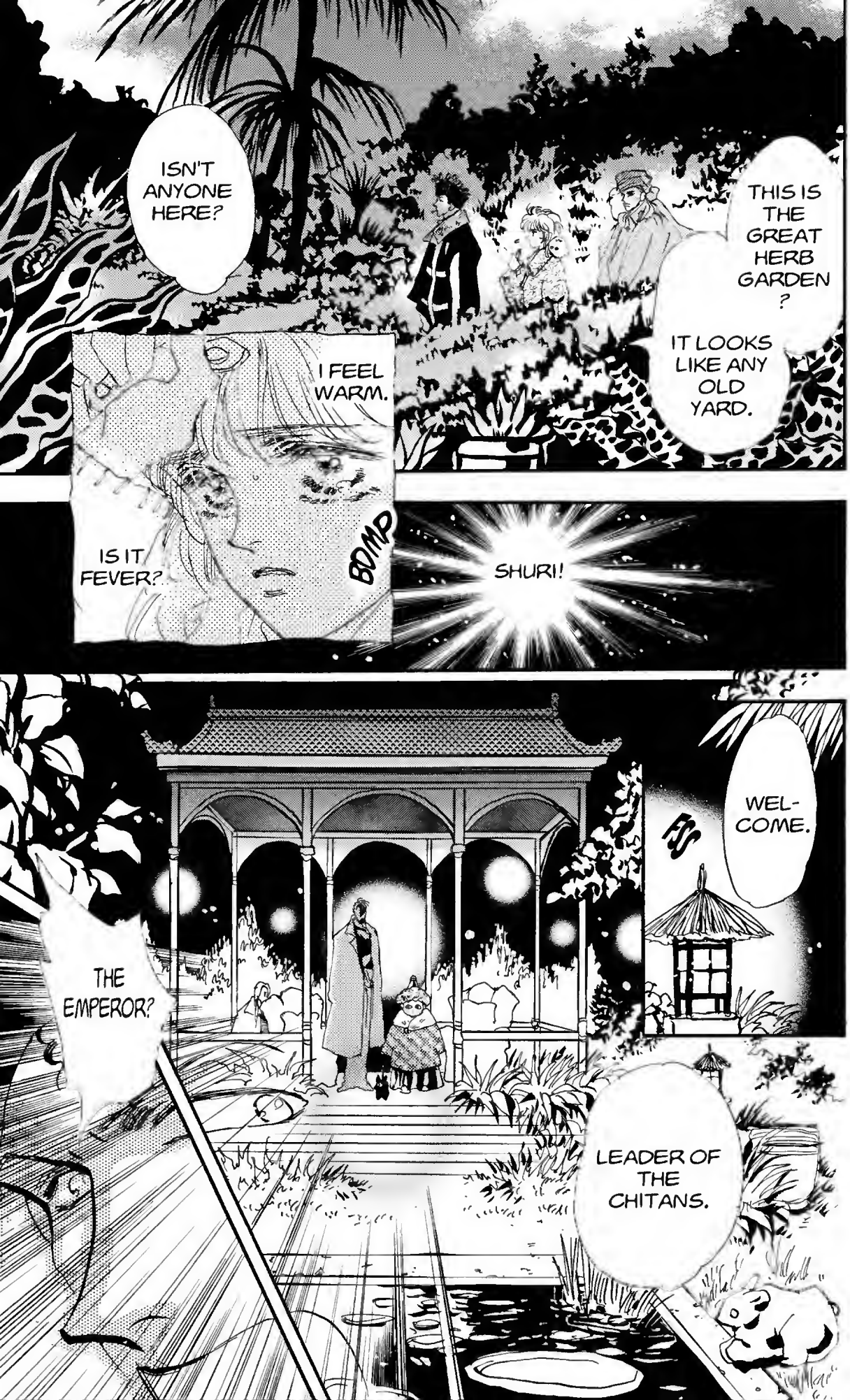
SWP
GAH!
TING
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GET INFECTED, PLEASE DO AS I SAY.
WOULD YOU LIKE A TASTE OF MY BLOOD?

THANK YOU FOR STAYING CALM.
TUKKA
I HAVE IRON NERVES.
TUKKA GOT HALF MY REVENGE.
I'M INTERPRETING.
SO, WHERE TO?
ARE THE EMPER-OR'S MEN...
WAITING TO TEAR ME LIMB FROM LIMB?
NO.
IF SHURI WANTED THAT, HE'D HAVE DONE IT ALREADY.
TUKKA
HE USED TO BE CAPABLE OF ANYTHING...
TUKKA
YOU CAN KILL ME...
BUT THAT WOULD CHANGE NOTHING.
I...
...AM HALF EURO-PEAN.
A HALF-BREED.
I MAY HAVE GROWN UP IN THE MOUN-TAINS...
BUT I STILL DON'T FIT IN.

IF YOU'RE RELATED TO BOTH SIDES...
WHY "HALF"?
YOU'RE NOT WHOLE?
...DOESN'T THAT MEAN YOU HAVE QUALITIES OF *BOTH*?
I GAINED THE CHITANS' TRUST BY PROCURING WEAPONS.
I GOT EUROPE'S TRUST BY PROMISING TO SELL THIS PLACE TO THEM.
I'M LIKE A BAT, FLITTING BE-TWEEN THE TWO.
HE'S HUMILIATED ME TOO OFTEN, MAKING ME BEG... FOR HIS HERBS.
I'M NO IDEAL-IST.
KLIP
KLOP
ALL I WANT TO DO IS KILL THE EMPEROR.
SOON YOU'LL GET SICK.
DO YOU TRUST YOUR DARLING TO MAKE IT IN TIME?
THE FEVER COMES FIRST.
YOU COULD BE THE BRIDGE...
TO LEAD THEM TO EACH OTHER.

IT'S NOT QUITE THE SAME AS *TRUST*.
WE WERE ONCE ENE-MIES.
WE FOUGHT WITH HATRED IN OUR HEARTS.
EVEN NOW, WE HAVE FLASH-BACKS.
DOUBTS.
BUT WE FEEL CONNECTED. WE SHARE THE SAME VISION.
WE SHARE ...
DO YOU THINK PEOPLE WHO HATED EACH OTHER CAN NEVER COME TO AN UNDER-STANDING?
...THE SAME BELIEFS!
DO YOU THINK THEY CAN NEVER START OVER?
WOULDN'T IT BE POSSIBLE FOR *YOU*, TOO?

SIRE.
DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO SHURI...
HE'S FINE, PREMIER NAHA.
THE CHITANS ARE TURNING AGGRESSIVE.
THEY'LL TRY TO INVADE SOON.
WHAT?
SO ...
... WHERE ARE WE GOING?
THE HERB GARDEN.
PREMIER NAHA IS MY UNCLE.
MY FATHER'S BROTHER.
FAMILY IS OFTEN A BURDEN.
WE SHOULD ASK FOR AID FROM EUROPE AS WELL.
I'M SURE WE CAN MANIPULATE THEM.
...COME WITH ME TONIGHT.
SIRE.
IF YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY...


THIS IS THE GREAT HERB GARDEN?
IT LOOKS LIKE ANY OLD YARD.
ISN'T ANYONE HERE?
I FEEL WARM.
IS IT FEVER?
BOMP
SHURI!
WEL-COME.
FS
THE EMPEROR?
LEADER OF THE CHITANS.

SIT DOWN, IVOR.
THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO SAY.
JUST ME.
NO SOLDIERS. PLEASE, TAKE A SEAT.
FWP
THERE IS NO ONE ELSE.
MY NAME IS SHURI.
I AM FROM JAPAN.
AS A THIRD PARTY WHO DOESN'T STAND TO PROFIT FROM EITHER SIDE...
...I HAVE TAKEN IT UPON MYSELF TO ACT AS MEDIATOR.
WHAT?
THE EUROPEAN FLEET IS CLOSING IN.
THEY'LL TAKE THIS LAND WHILE IT'S MIRED IN CIVIL WAR.
THEN JAPAN WILL BE NEXT.

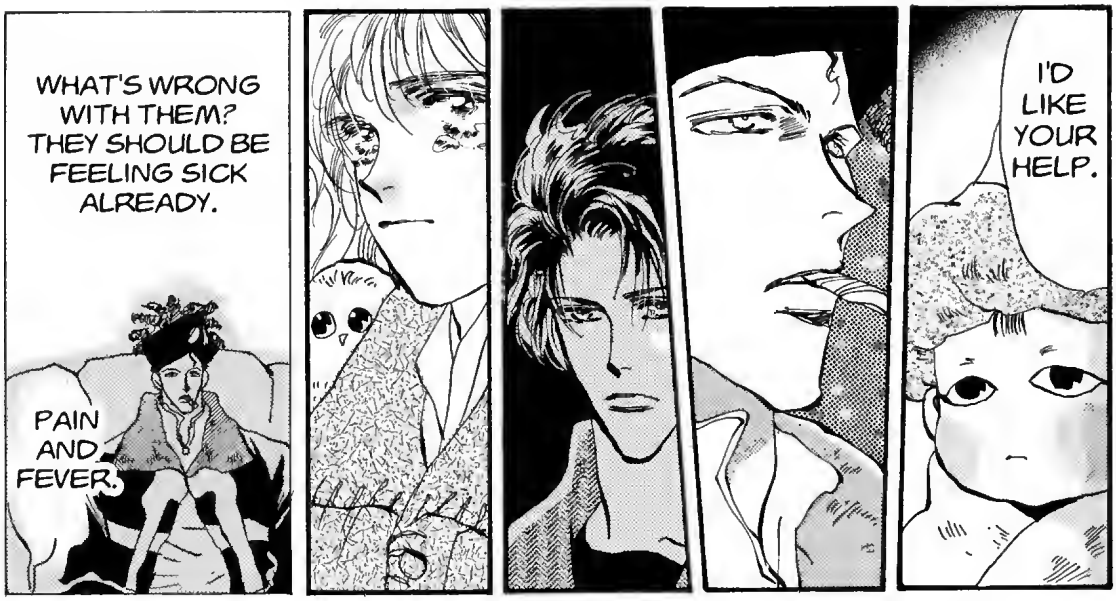
I WON'T INTERFERE WITH YOUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
WELL, I DID.
TALK AND DECIDE AMONGST YOURSELVES.
BUT...
...I'LL STAY RIGHT HERE.
IF YOU TRY TO HARM EACH OTHER...
...I'LL STOP YOU!
NOW TALK!

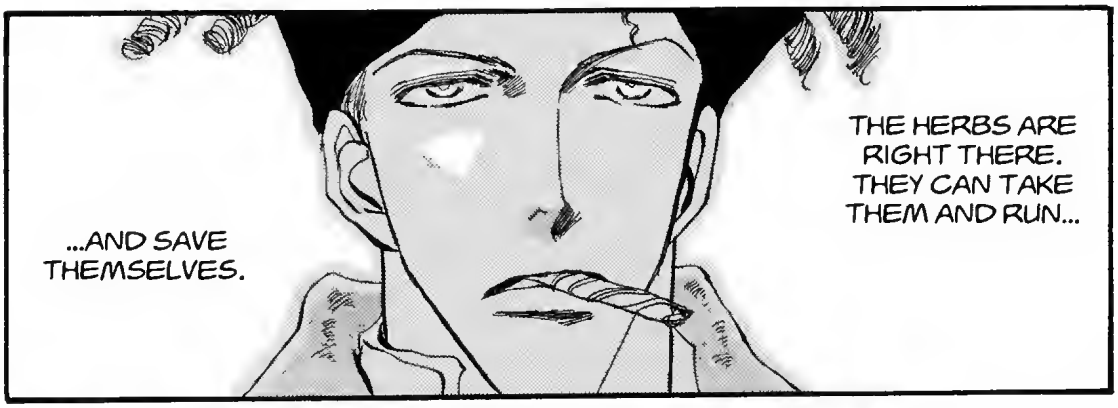
AT FIRST, WHEN HE WAS HEADING TO THE PORT...
...HE HAD A DIFFERENT PLAN.
THE KING...
...IS SIMPLY STANDING THERE.
...OUTWITTING HIS ADVERSARIES.
...CRUSHING HIS HATED ENEMIES...
...BLUFFING HIS WAY THROUGH...
I'M SURE HE WOULD'VE BEEN BACK TO HIS OLD HABITS...
HE'S FACING REALITY!
TA-TARA...
HE'S CHANGING AS WELL.
TIMES ARE CHANGING.
BUT HE CHANGED HIS MIND.

SARA-
SA!

WATCH ME, SARASA.
I CAN ONLY ...
... OFFER UP MY OWN BODY!
I WON'T BEG FOR FORGIVE-NESS!

WATCH WHAT I DO WITH MY LIFE!
SHURI!
I NEVER EVEN NEEDED ...
...TO POINT IT OUT...
I WANT TO LOOK FOR A WAY TO COEXIST WITH THE CHITANS...
...AND OPEN DIPLO-MATIC RELATIONS WITH EUROPE.
I...
...WANT TO OPEN THE HERB GARDEN TO THE PUBLIC.


WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM? THEY SHOULD BE FEELING SICK ALREADY.
PAIN AND FEVER.
I'D LIKE YOUR HELP.

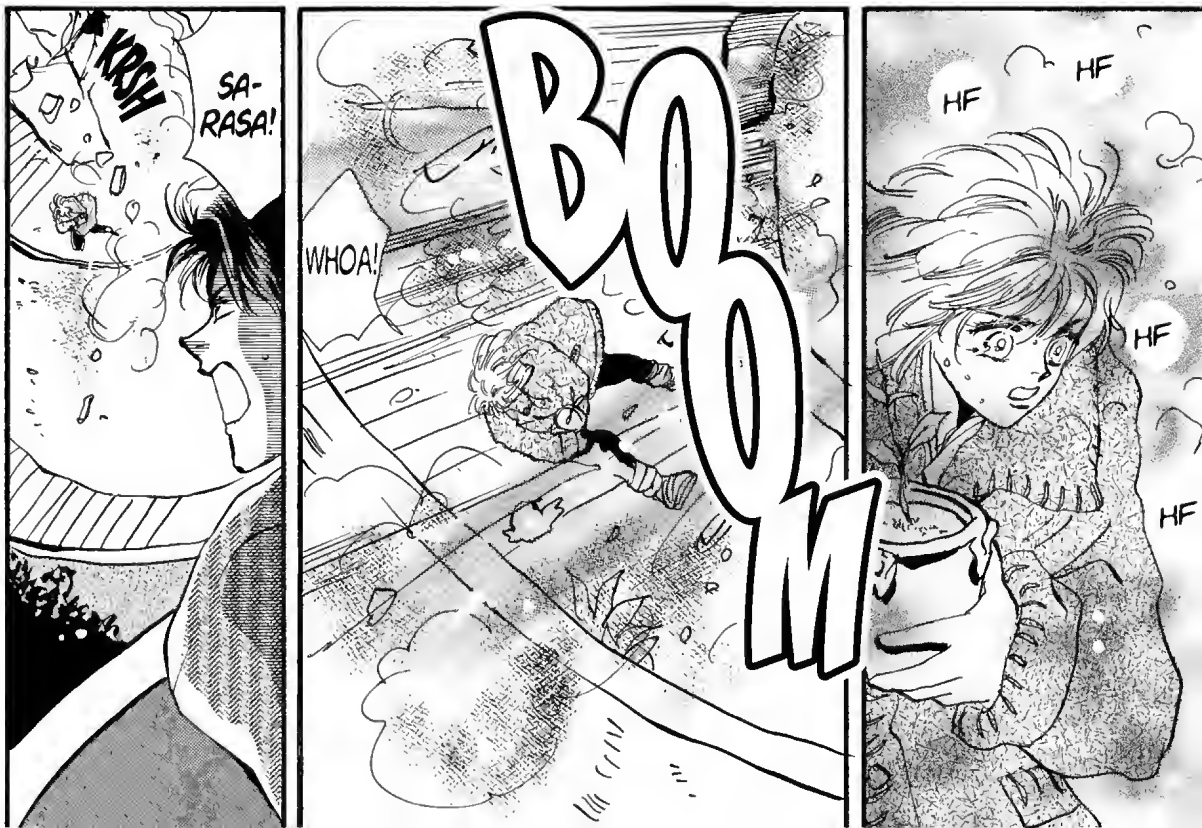

...AND SAVE THEMSELVES.
THE HERBS ARE RIGHT THERE. THEY CAN TAKE THEM AND RUN...

BUT NOT HERE.
IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO FIND ANOTHER WAY.
WE HAD TO FIGHT ...
IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO END IT.
...UNTIL MY COUNTRY WAS UTTERLY DE-STROYED.
IS IT LOVE FOR THEIR COUNTRY?
WHY?

...THAT IT'S POSSIBLE TO START OVER.
SHOW US...
HSS PCH
THE GARDEN'S ON FIRE...
SIR!
SIRE!

PREMIER NAHA!
UNCLE?
NO!
HE LIT THE FIRE!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
TM
TM
SHI!
HE'S TRYING TO KILL US!
ROARR
THE PLANTS ...
THE TOWER!
IF THE FIRE SPREADS, THE IPECAC WILL BE DESTROYED ...
TMP
CARRY THEM OUT!
SA-RASA!
CALL MORE MEN!
CARRY OUT THE POTS OF HERBS!
SAKAKI, WE'LL GET WATER!
GOT IT!
HELP ME!

RAAH
RAAH
COME HELP!
IVOR, WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE CHITANS!
WH


KRSH
SA-RASA!
WHOA!
BOOM
HF
HF
HF
HF

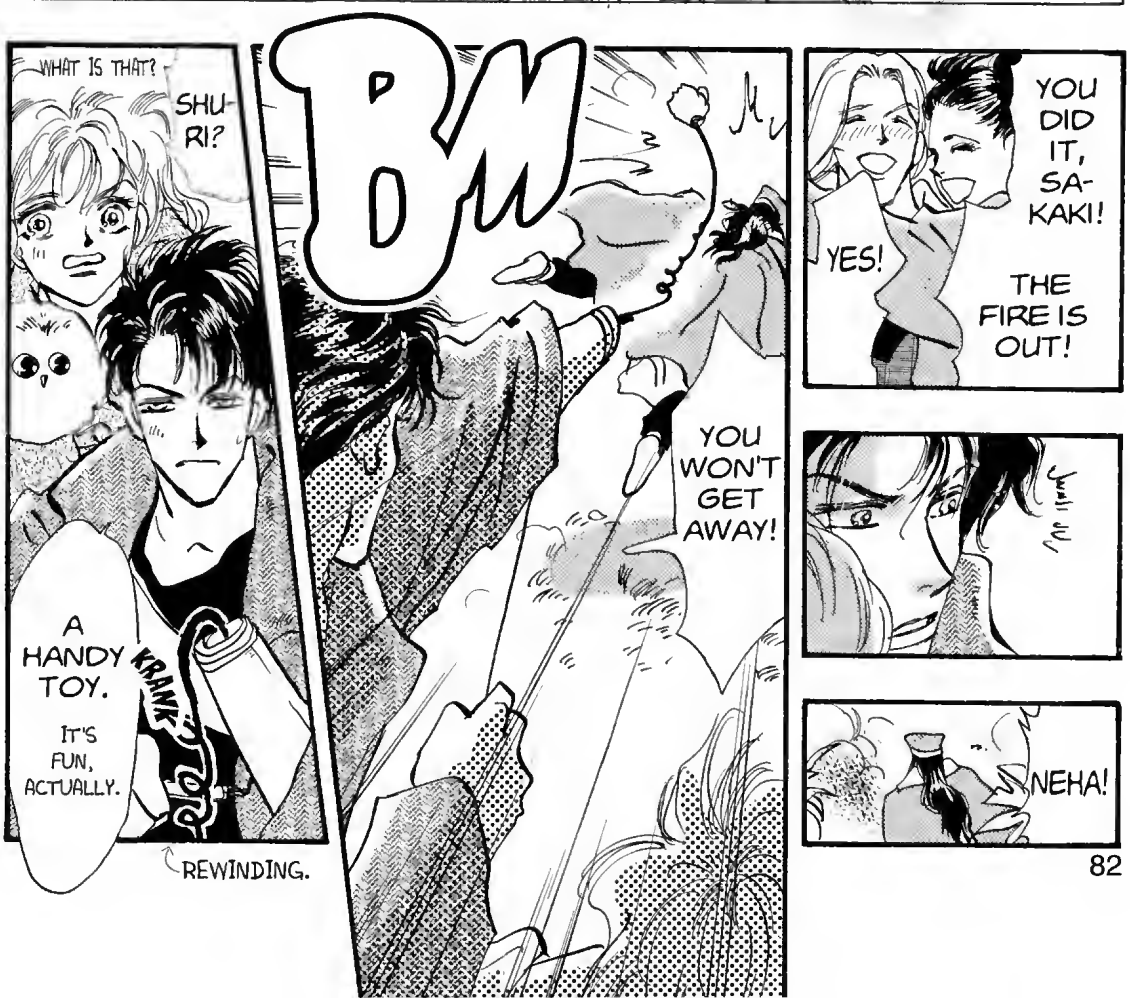
ONE!
TWO!
SLIP
THREE!
FOUR!
FIVE!
SARASA!
VSH
KRAK
KRSH
GRAB ON!

D
SH
POK
KRAK
ARE YOU HURT?
OMMI-
I'M FINE! THANKS!
GOOD.
HF
HF
HF
I'M SORRY.
I SHOULD LEAVE YOUR RIGHT ARM FREE...
IDIOT.
I'D RATHER GIVE IT ALL TO YOU.

I LOVE YOU!
I STILL LOVE YOU...
SOB
SO MUCH!
SHURI ...
WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.
BUT...
MAKE A FRESH START.
...WE CAN ALWAYS START OVER.
WE CAN'T PRETEND IT NEVER HAPPENED.

I KNOW WE CAN!

IS IT REALLY A GOOD IDEA FOR HER TO STAY BY HIS SIDE?
SSH
FSH
HAS TATARA CHANGED THE KING?

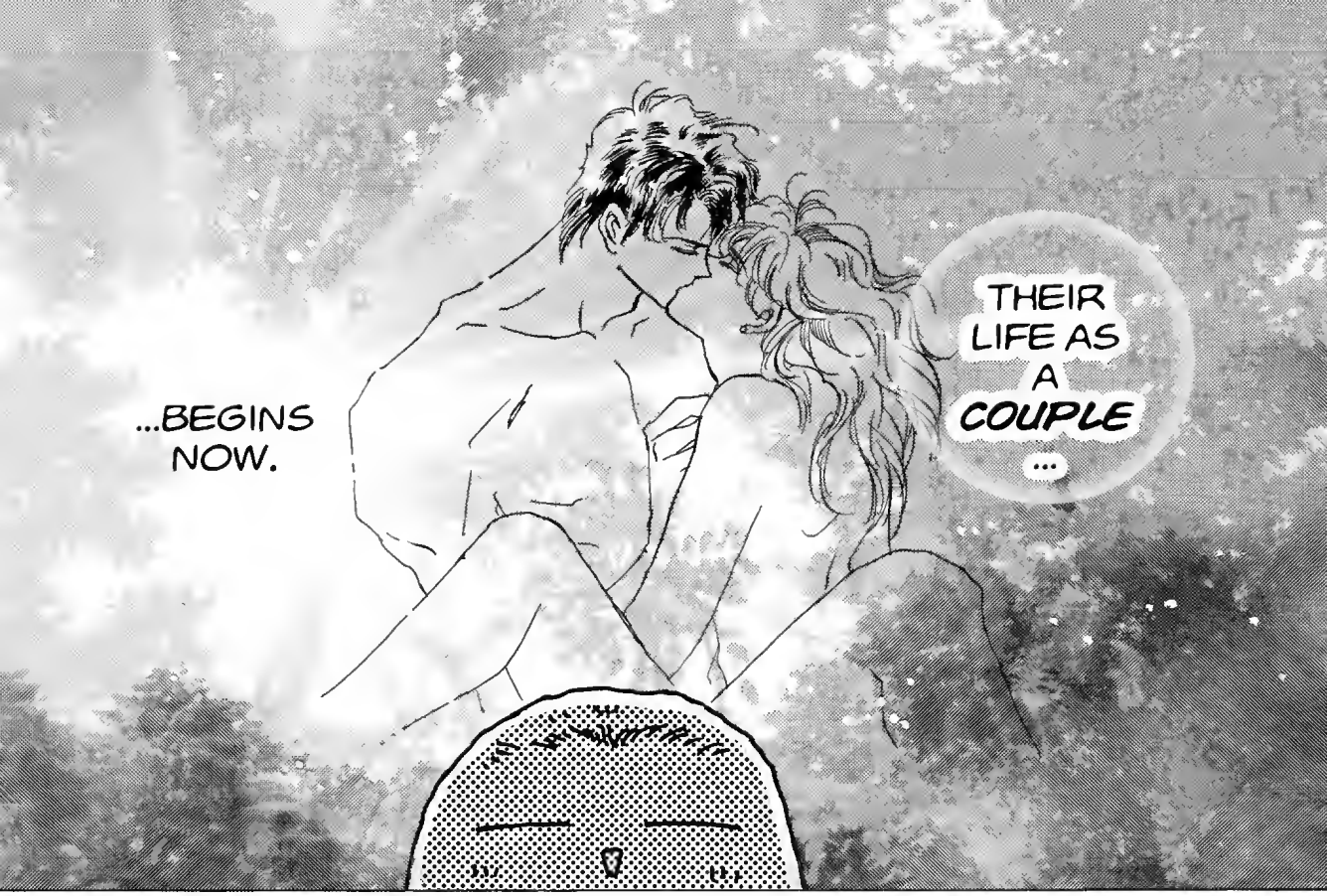

WHAT IS THAT?
SHU-RI?
A HANDY TOY.
KRANK
IT'S FUN, ACTUALLY.
REWINDING.
BM
YOU WON'T GET AWAY!
YOU DID IT, SA-KAKI!
YES!
THE FIRE IS OUT!
NEHA!

IT WOULD BE MUCH BETTER ...
TO BE RULED BY EUROPE THAN KILLED BY THE CHITANS.
EUROPE WOULD BE KIND TO US.
YOU ARE TOO YOUNG.
SSS
STSS
WAAH
PREMIER NEHA IS MY LAST LIVING RELATIVE.
SOB SNIFF
HE ALWAYS HELPED ME.
I CAN'T EXECUTE HIM...
DRINK THIS AND GET SOME REST. YOU'LL FEEL BAD FOR A WHILE.
GIZ GIZ
HEY.
BITTER!
IF YOU HAD CUT DOWN THE SILVER VINE...
JUST BECAUSE OF THE PARA-SITES...
...YOU'D NEVER HAVE DIS-COVERED THAT MEDICINE.
LET THIS BE A LESSON ...
...SO YOU'LL KNOW BETTER IN THE FUTURE.
DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN.
YOUR HIGH-NESS.

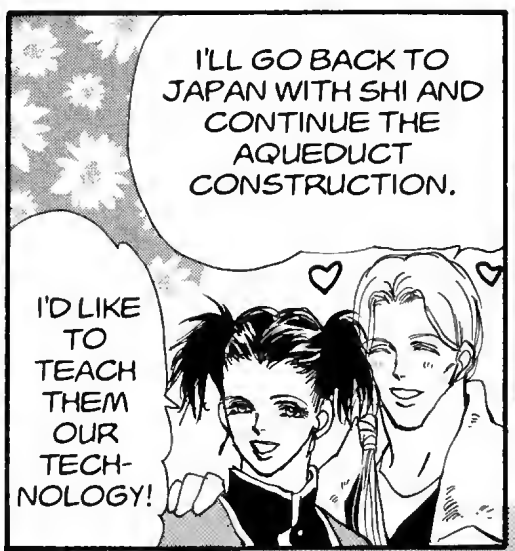
I'M READY TO TALK.
I CAN'T GUARANTEE ANYTHING...
...BUT LET'S FIND A WAY THAT BENEFITS US ALL.
FWAP
REPORTING BACK?
HM?
IF YOU EVER SEE SIR HENRY, TELL HIM I SAID HELLO.
THE FLEET WILL WITHDRAW...
ONCE THE CONFLICT HERE IS RESOLVED.
EUROPE WILL RETURN WITH DIPLOMATS.
SADHA...
SOME PREFER PEACEFUL DIPLOMACY.
SO YOU'RE ON THEIR SIDE.
AREN'T YOU?
EUROPE ISN'T A MONOLITHIC ENTITY.
ARE YOU SAYING I'M A EUROPEAN SPY?

MY PEOPLE LIVED WITH THE WIND...
SARA-SA.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR FRIEND? DID HE LIVE HIS LIFE AS FREE AS THE WIND?
THEN ...
THAT'S WHERE HE WILL ALWAYS BE.
WHER-EVER THE WIND BLOWS.
HE'LL ALWAYS BE BY YOUR SIDE.
...THROUGH SPACE AND TIME...
WIND TRAVELS...
I'M GOING TO MAKE LOVE TO YOU LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW.
I MAY BE ONE HAND SHORT...
BUT I KNOW PLENTY OF WAYS AROUND THAT.

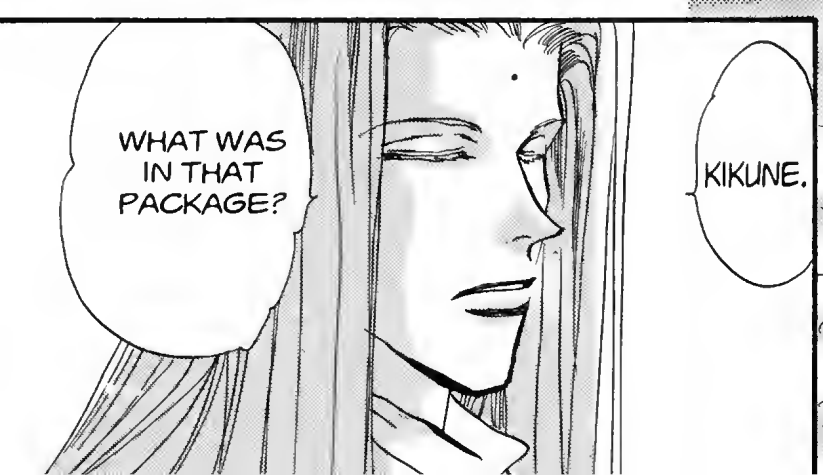
TWO LOVED ONES, REACHING...
SHURI!
SHURI!
SARASA ...

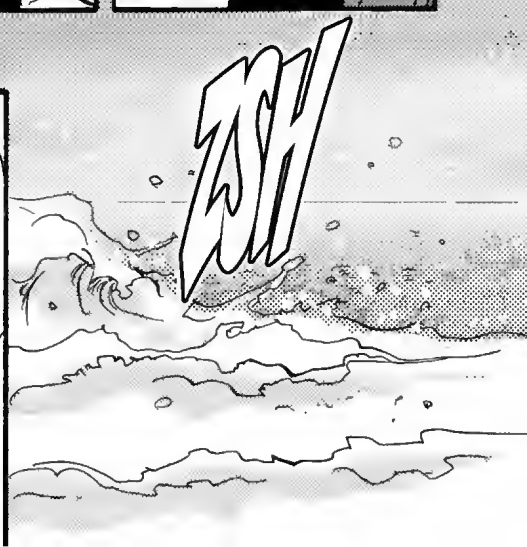

THEIR LIFE AS A COUPLE ...
...BEGINS NOW.

YOU'LL MAKE YOUR MOTHER HAPPY.


I'LL GO BACK TO JAPAN WITH SHI AND CONTINUE THE AQUEDUCT CONSTRUCTION.
I'D LIKE TO TEACH THEM OUR TECH-NOLOGY!

I WISH YOU COULD STAY LONG-ER.
TAKE SOME HERBS.


WHAT WAS IN THAT PACKAGE?
KIKUNE.


ISH

WANT TO GO TO EUROPE?
YEAH!
I'D LOVE TO!
SARASA.
SARASA.
ARE YOU HAPPY?
IT'S A SECRET!
SO NYAH!
HEY!
C'MON!
LET'S GO ON OUR OWN HONEY-MOON!
I'LL LET YOU COUNT MY SCARS!
THEY'RE NOT MARRIED, EITHER!
WHY? WE'RE NOT EVEN MARRIED!
I DON'T WANT TO COUNT THEM!
WANNA GO BET ON THE HORSES?
I'LL WIN TODAY!
DOES THE WIND BLOW FAVORABLY IN YOUR SAILS?

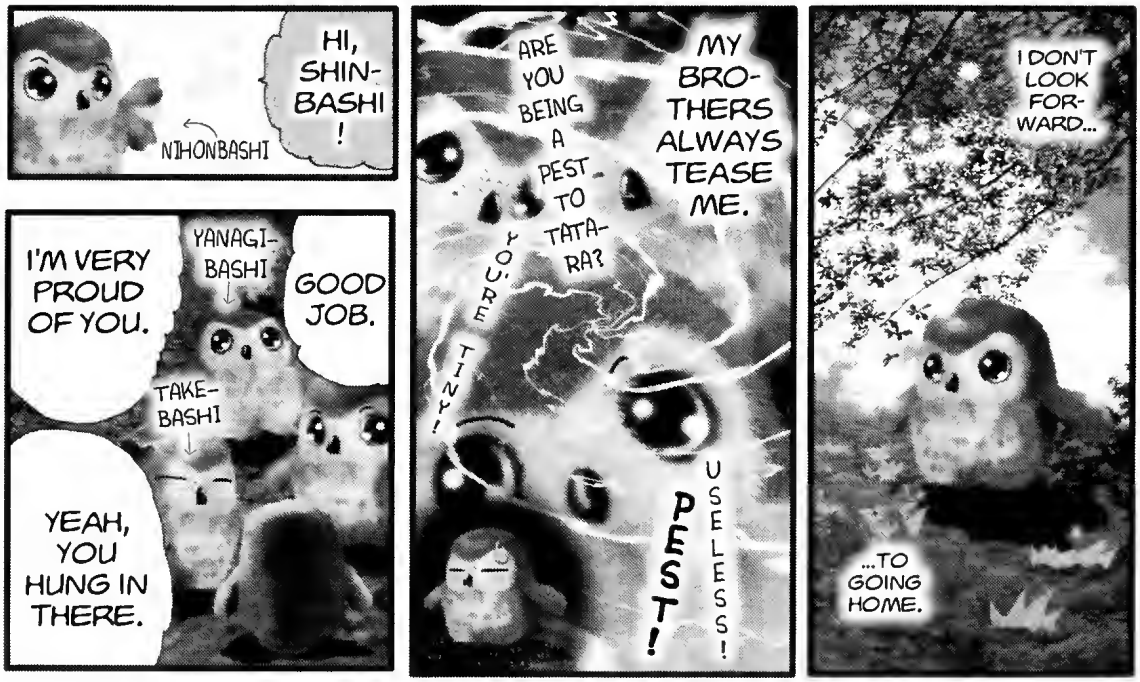
ARE YOU HAPPY?
SARASA.
I FOUND IT.
IT'S MINE NOW.
THE KYLIN CARVING?
WHEN WE RUN LOW ON FUNDS, WE CAN SELL THIS.
YOU DIDN'T GIVE IT BACK?
WE CAN SELL THE SILVER VINE MEDICINE, TOO.
IT COULD BE OUR SYMBOL.
HEY!
WANNA RIDE?
ALWAYS FIND...
A SILVER LINING!

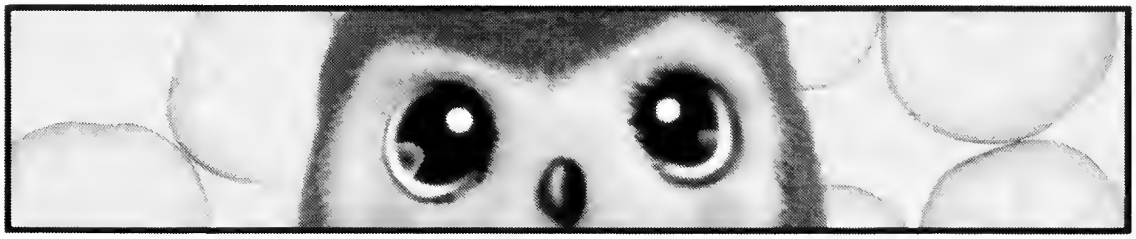
KANATA: END

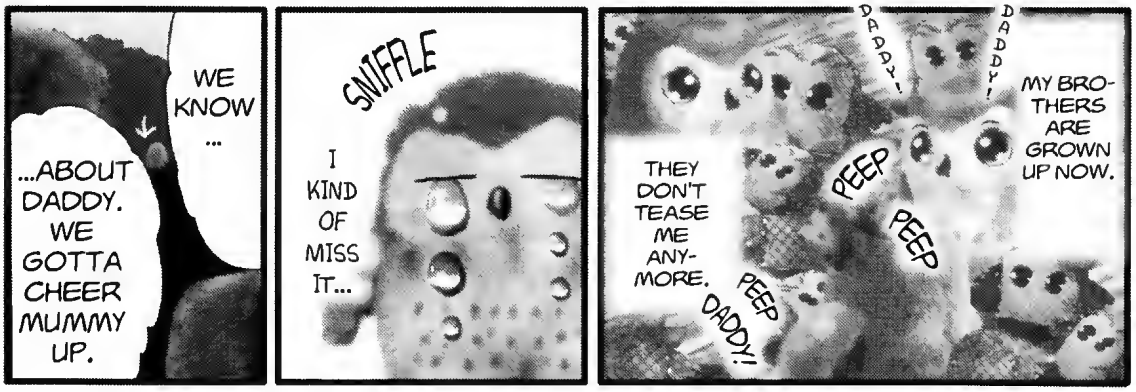
BASARA
APPENDIX 7

SARABA GOODBYE

STORY OF STARS: SHINBASHI







I'M SURE HE'S WITH AGEHA NOW.
DADDY WENT TO BE ONE OF THE STARS IN THE SKY.
YEAH.
HE MUST BE.
HE WORKED HARDER THAN ANYONE.

...CONTINUE TO HELP TATARA...
...FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

I HOPE I CAN ...
I'LL BE A DADDY, TOO, ONE DAY.
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO MY WIFE ONE DAY.

SARABA: END

BASARA

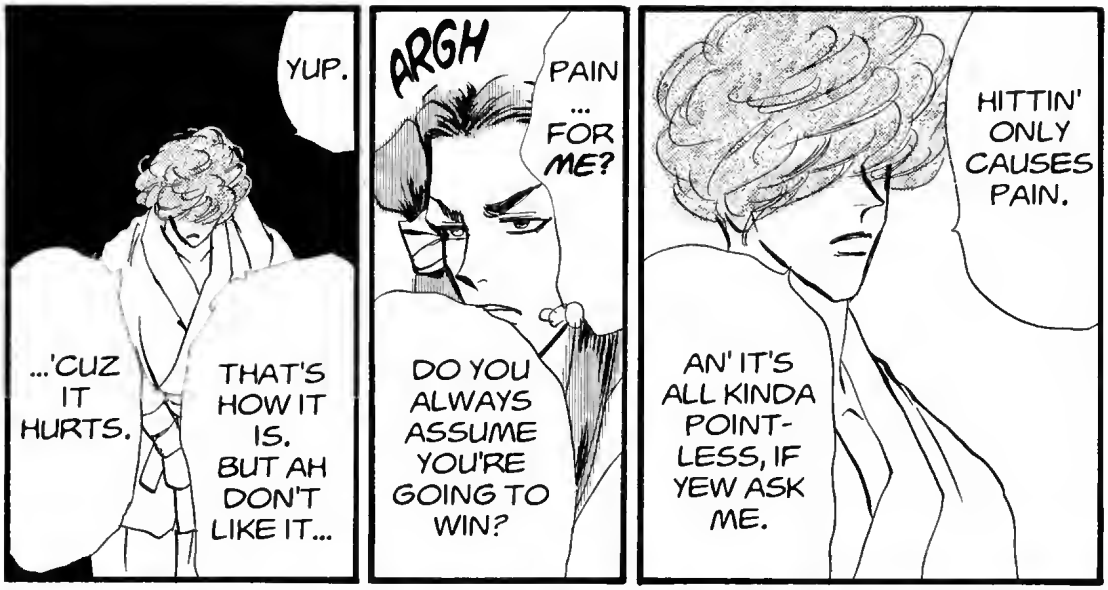
APPENDIX 8

TAKARA

TREASURE

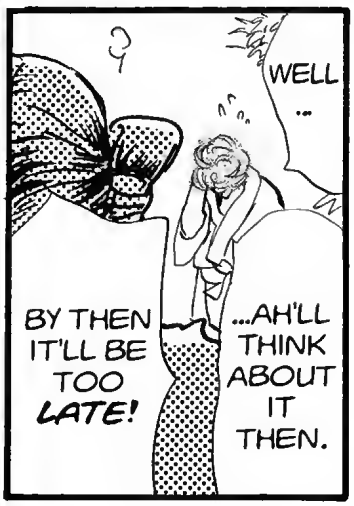
BLACK STORY: CHERRY

SRF SRF
COME ON, TAMON!
BE MORE AGGRESSIVE! STRIKE ME, JUST ONCE!
COME ON!
KA TNG
WHY WON'T YOU EVER MAKE A MOVE YOURSELF?
GRR
AND YET YOU NEVER LOSE! HOW DOES THAT WORK?
I THOUGHT I WAS PRETTY GOOD AT THE TIME.
BUT I COULD NEVER ONCE BEAT TAMON.
KN
OOPS!
OOPS


YUP.
...'CUZ IT HURTS.
THAT'S HOW IT IS. BUT AH DON'T LIKE IT...
ARGH
PAIN ... FOR ME?
DO YOU ALWAYS ASSUME YOU'RE GOING TO WIN?
HITTIN' ONLY CAUSES PAIN.
AN' IT'S ALL KINDA POINT-LESS, IF YEW ASK ME.

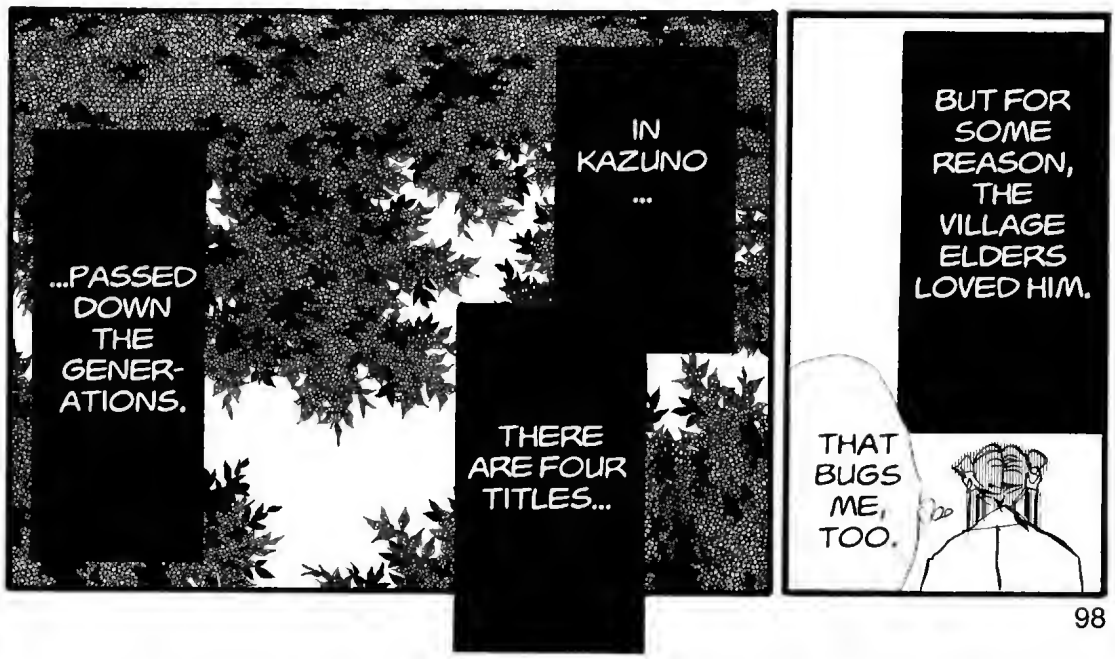
...THE ENEMY COMES TO RAVAGE YOUR LANDS? WOULD YOU STILL REFUSE TO FIGHT?
WHAT IF...
HE HATED BOTH WAR AND COMPETI-TION.

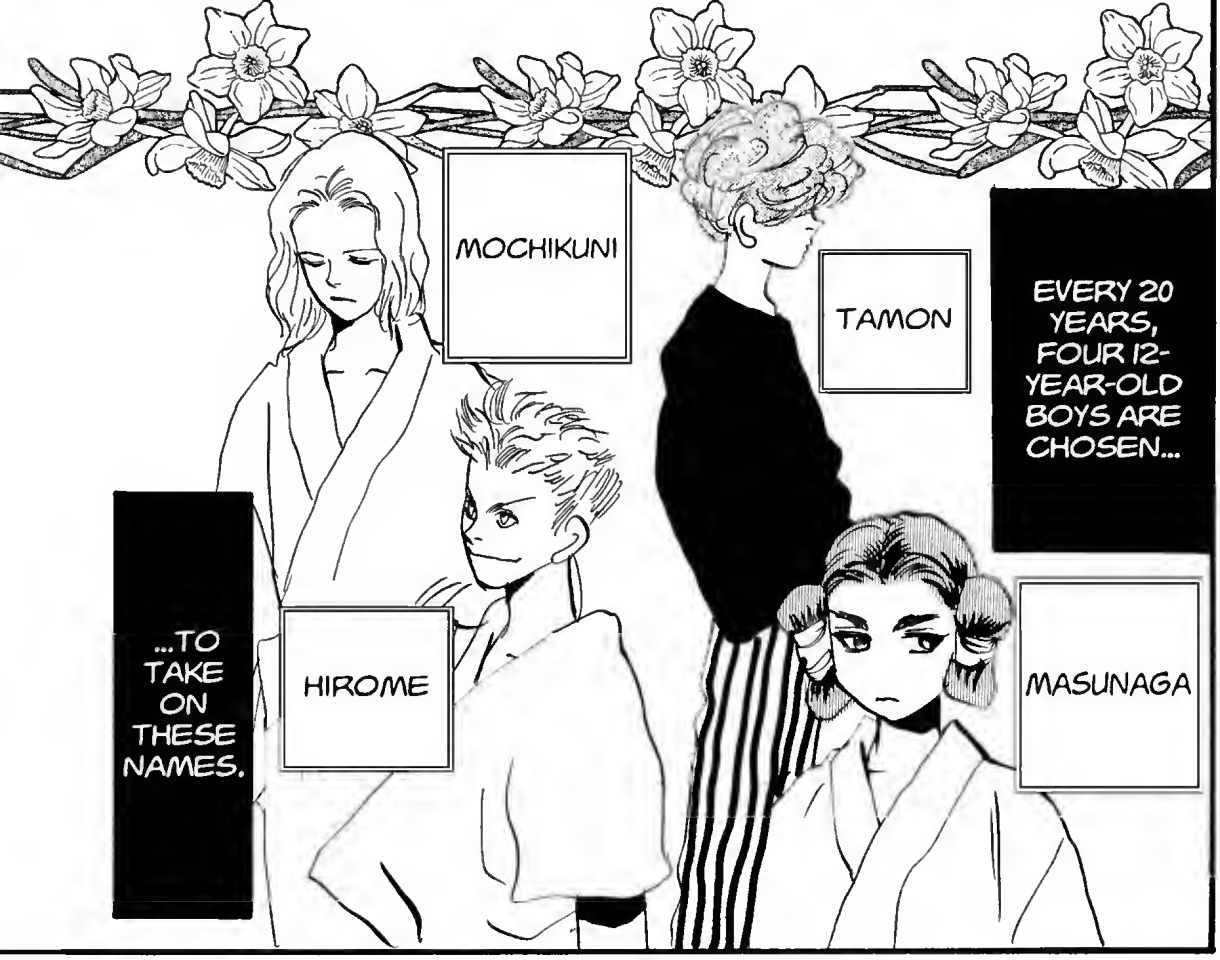
PEOPLE OR THINGS?
SOME-THING TO DEFEND? COME ON!
DON'T YOU ... HAVE ANY-THING YOU CARE ABOUT?


?
WELL ...
BY THEN IT'LL BE TOO LATE!
...AH'LL THINK ABOUT IT THEN.

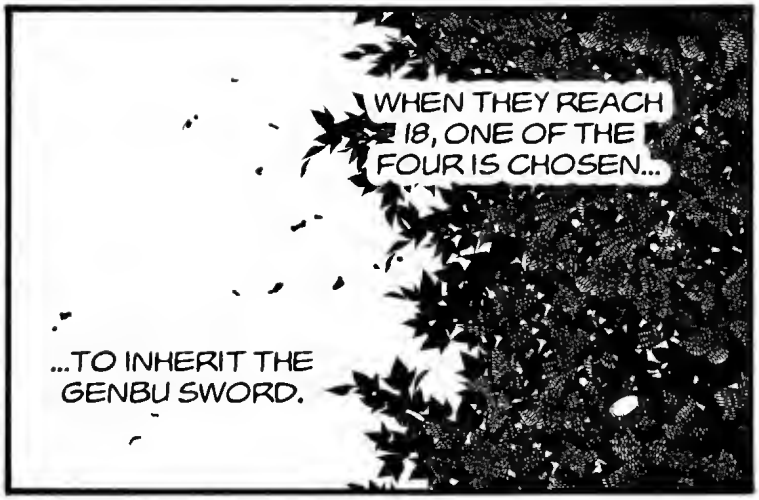
WE WERE CHILD-HOOD FRIENDS.
BUT I WAS ALWAYS FRUSTRATED ...
...THAT WE COULDN'T SEE EYE TO EYE.

HE SHOWS NO LOVE FOR COUNTRY OR PEOPLE.
HE TAKES THINGS FOR GRANTED. DOES HE THINK HE CAN SPEND HIS ENTIRE LIFE GOOFING OFF?

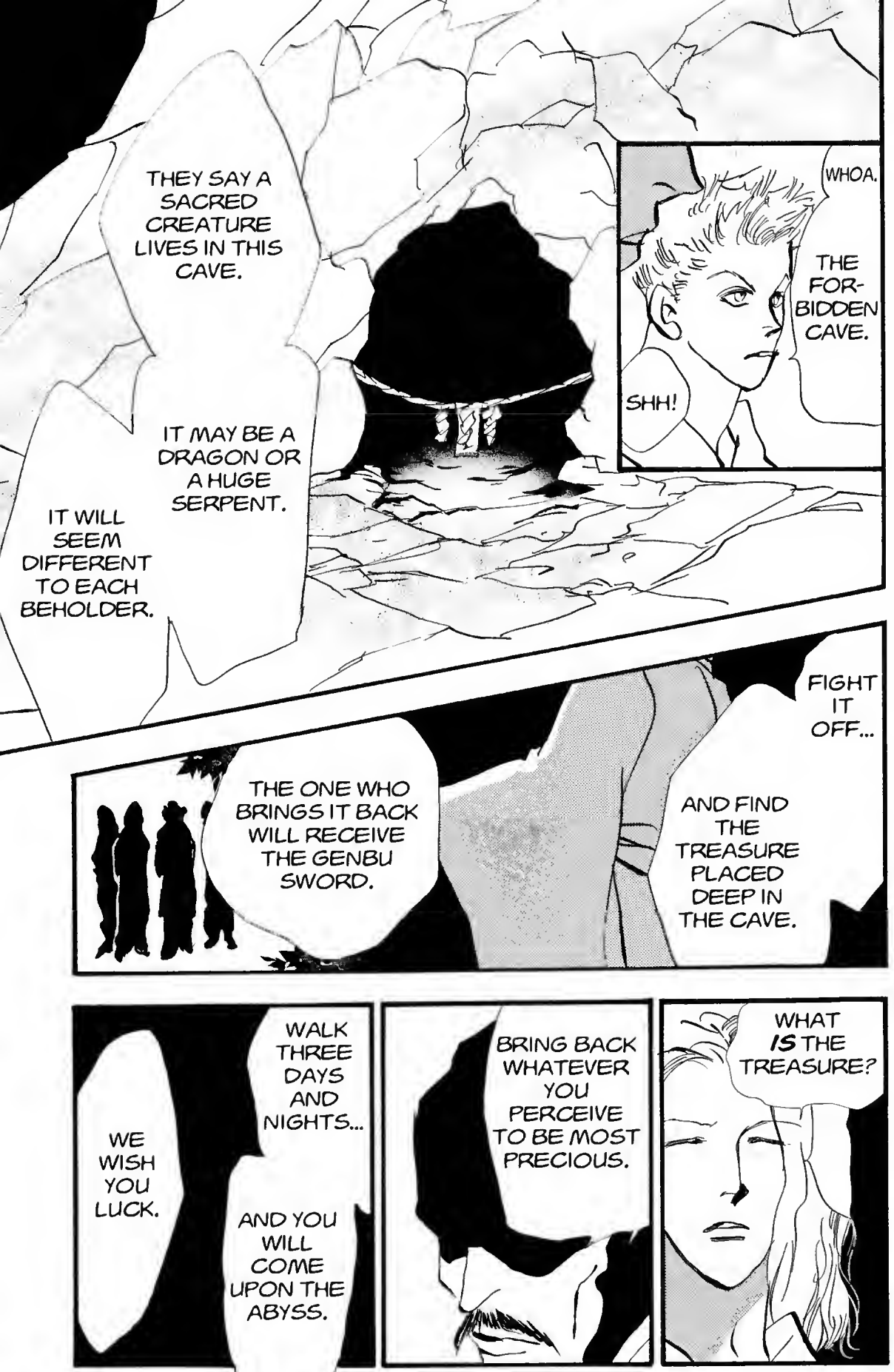

BUT FOR SOME REASON, THE VILLAGE ELDERS LOVED HIM.
THAT BUGS ME, TOO.
IN KAZUNO ...
THERE ARE FOUR TITLES...
...PASSED DOWN THE GENER-ATIONS.

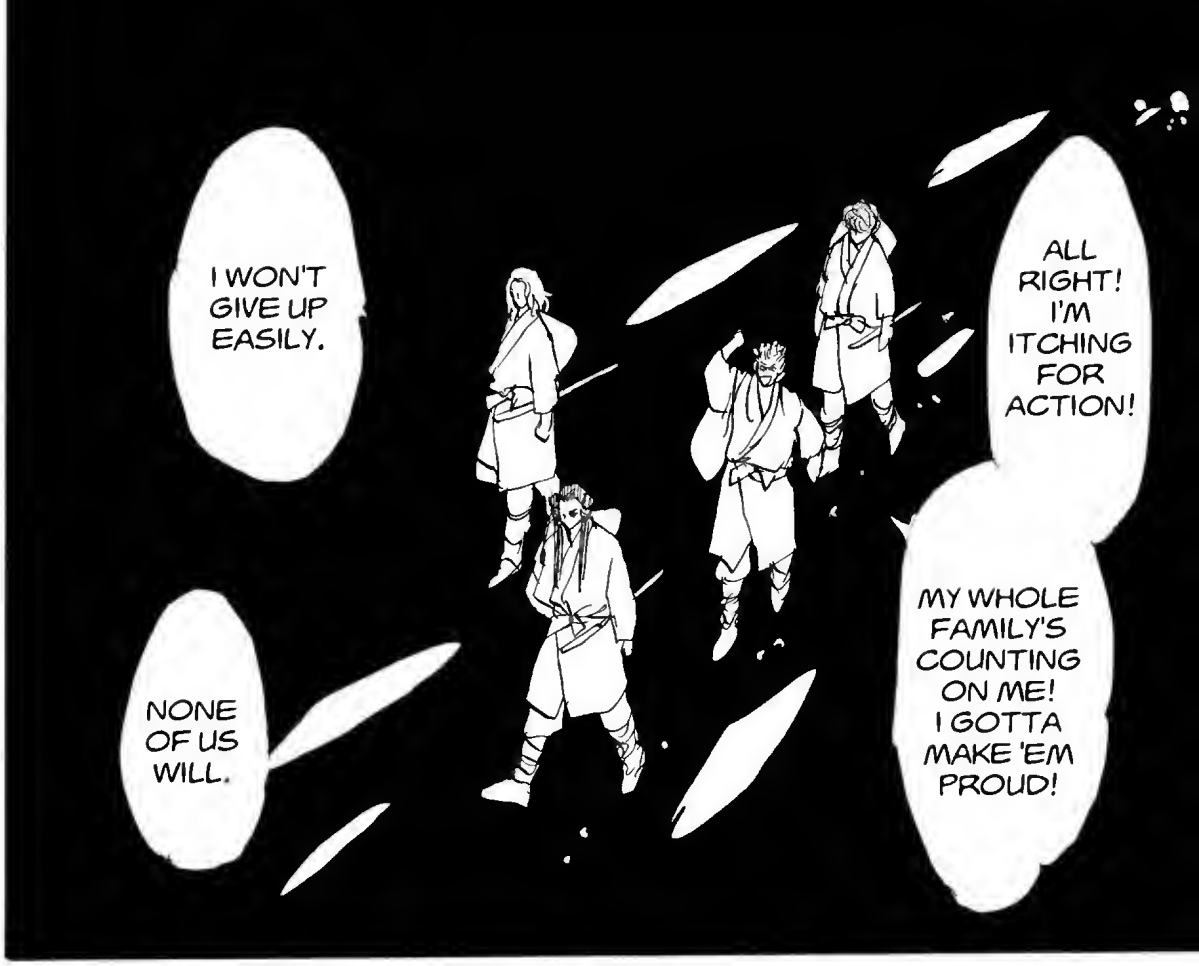


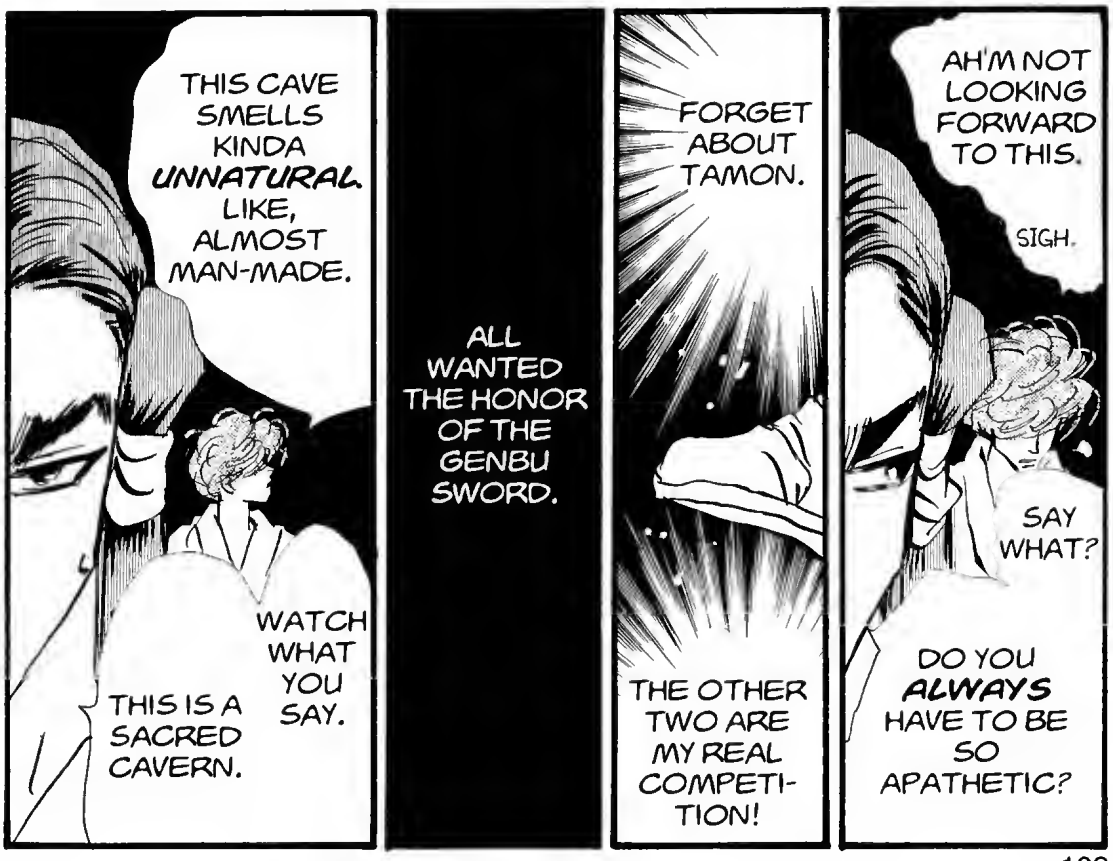
THEY BECOME THE GENERALS WHO LEAD AND DEFEND THE FOUR STOCKADES.



WE WILL CONDUCT "THE RITE OF FIRE"!
NOW!
...TO SEE WHICH OF YOU FOUR IS WORTHY OF THE SWORD OF GENBU!
THIS IS A CEREMONY AND A TEST...
ALL OF YOU...
...WILL ENTER THE SALA-MANDER SHRINE.
GULP
...AND THE MOST RIGHTEOUS WILL RECEIVE THAT HONOR.
THE STRONG-EST...
THE WISEST...
DO YOUR BEST!


THEY SAY A SACRED CREATURE LIVES IN THIS CAVE.
IT MAY BE A DRAGON OR A HUGE SERPENT.
IT WILL SEEM DIFFERENT TO EACH BEHOLDER.
WHOA.
THE FOR-BIDDEN CAVE.
SHH!
FIGHT IT OFF...
AND FIND THE TREASURE PLACED DEEP IN THE CAVE.
THE ONE WHO BRINGS IT BACK WILL RECEIVE THE GENBU SWORD.
WALK THREE DAYS AND NIGHTS...
WE WISH YOU LUCK.
AND YOU WILL COME UPON THE ABYSS.
BRING BACK WHATEVER YOU PERCEIVE TO BE MOST PRECIOUS.
WHAT *IS* THE TREASURE?


I WON'T GIVE UP EASILY.
ALL RIGHT! I'M ITCHING FOR ACTION!
NONE OF US WILL.
MY WHOLE FAMILY'S COUNTING ON ME! I GOTTA MAKE 'EM PROUD!

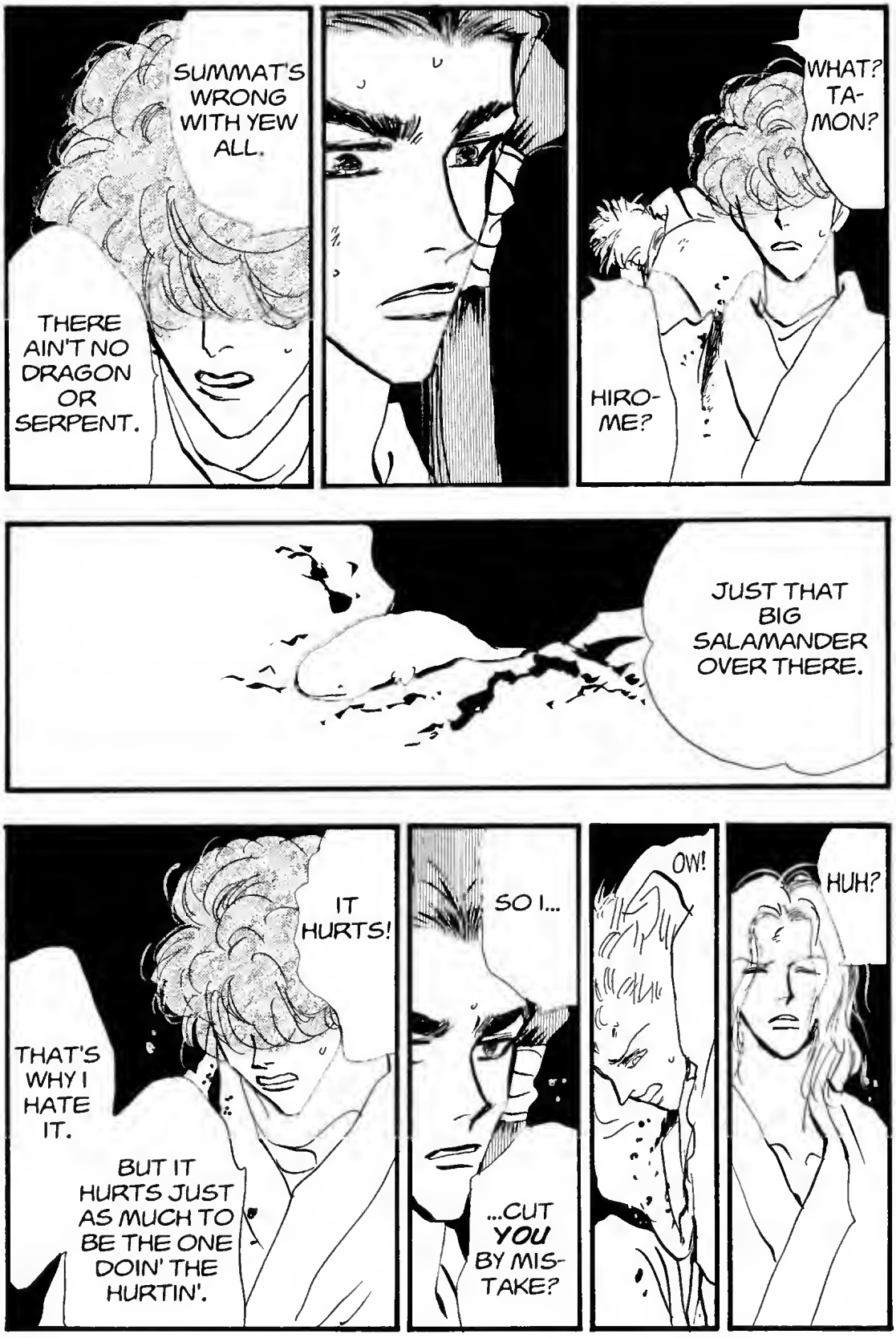

THIS CAVE SMELLS KINDA UNNATURAL. LIKE, ALMOST MAN-MADE.
WATCH WHAT YOU SAY.
THIS IS A SACRED CAVERN.
ALL WANTED THE HONOR OF THE GENBU SWORD.
FORGET ABOUT TAMON.
THE OTHER TWO ARE MY REAL COMPETI-TION!
AH'M NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS.
SIGH.
SAY WHAT?
DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BE SO APATHETIC?

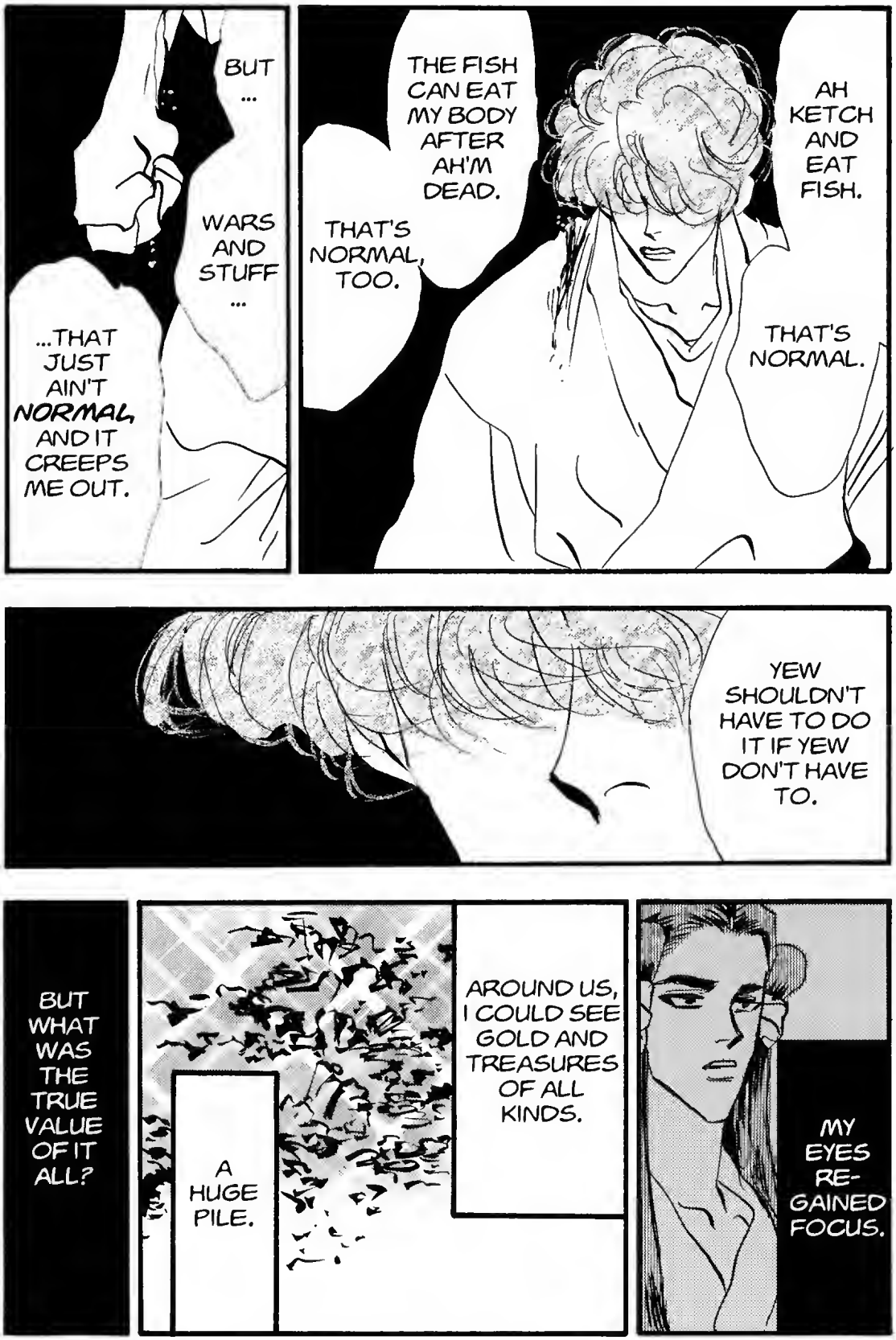
MASU-NAGA? DOESN'T IT SMELL WEIRD TO YOU?
PIPE DOWN, TAMON.
WE HADN'T BEEN ALLOWED TO BRING MANY SUPPLIES...
...SO WE ONLY USED THE LIGHT INTERMITTENTLY.
HWOOO
NOW AND AGAIN, A STRONG BREEZE BLEW.
IT WAS DARK.
EXCEPT FOR TAMON, THAT IS.
IT SMELLS!
EVERYONE WAS NERVOUS.
AND WHEN EVERYONE WAS THOROUGHLY EXHAUSTED... IT STARTED.
NOBODY WANTED TO STOP, SO WE KEPT WALKING WITHOUT SLEEP.
THE DARKNESS MUDDLED OUR PERCEPTION OF TIME.

WHOO
THERE IT IS!
NO, IT ISN'T!
IT'S GOT WINGS AND A BEAK!
NO!
SEE, IT'S BREATHING FLAMES!
IT'S A DRAGON!
IT'S THE EIGHT-HEADED SERPENT!

HEY.
WHAT'S EVERY-ONE DOIN'?
GRAB THE TREASURE...
THE TREASURE!
TAKE THIS THING DOWN...
I DID IT!
I CUT OFF ONE OF ITS HEADS!
GYAAH
VSH
MASUNAGA!!

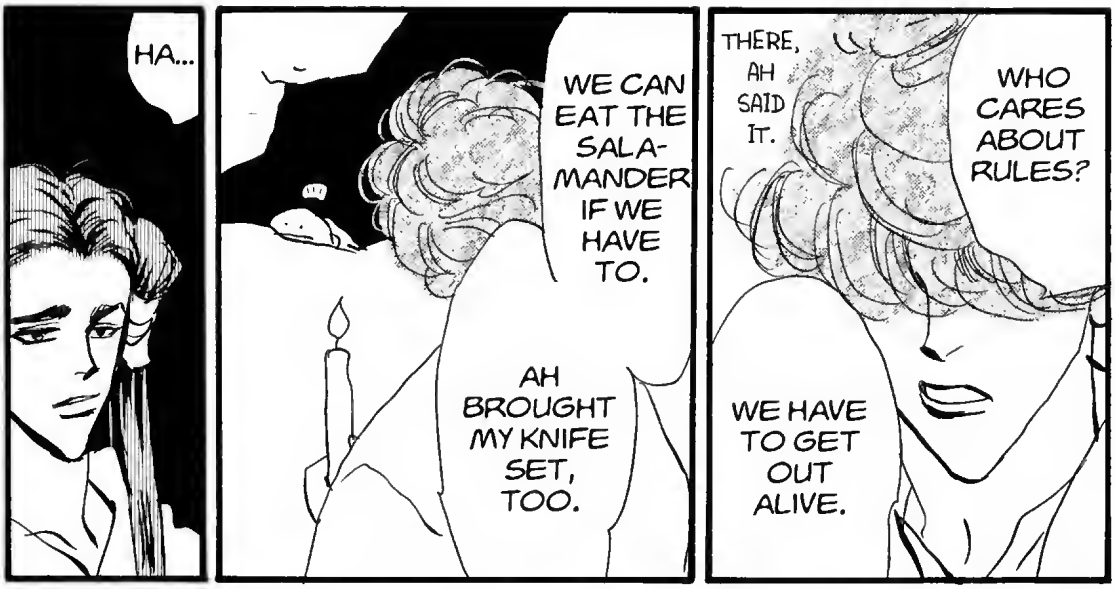
STOP!
YOU'RE HURTING EACH OTHER!
...I'D HEARD TAMON RAISE HIS VOICE.
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME...
ASH!
MASUNAGA!


SUMMAT'S WRONG WITH YEW ALL.
THERE AIN'T NO DRAGON OR SERPENT.
WHAT? TA-MON?
HIRO-ME?
JUST THAT BIG SALAMANDER OVER THERE.
IT HURTS!
THAT'S WHY I HATE IT.
BUT IT HURTS JUST AS MUCH TO BE THE ONE DOIN' THE HURTIN'.
SO I...
...CUT *YOU* BY MIS-TAKE?
OW!
HUH?


BUT ...
WARS AND STUFF ...
...THAT JUST AIN'T NORMAL, AND IT CREEPS ME OUT.
THE FISH CAN EAT MY BODY AFTER AH'M DEAD.
THAT'S NORMAL, TOO.
AH KETCH AND EAT FISH.
THAT'S NORMAL.
YEW SHOULDN'T HAVE TO DO IT IF YEW DON'T HAVE TO.
BUT WHAT WAS THE TRUE VALUE OF IT ALL?
A HUGE PILE.
AROUND US, I COULD SEE GOLD AND TREASURES OF ALL KINDS.
MY EYES RE-GAINED FOCUS.

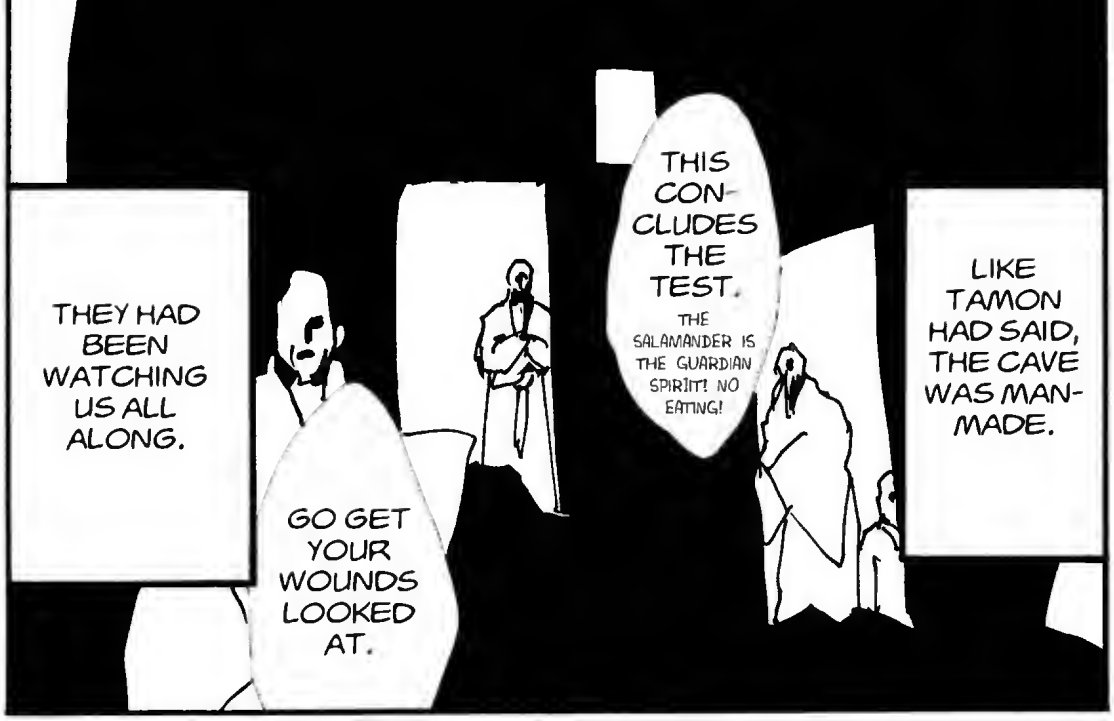
THE MOST PRECIOUS TREASURE IS *LIFE.*
THE LIFE THAT LETS ME KETCH AND EAT FISH.
KNOWING AH CAN EAT AND EVENTUALLY BE EATEN.
THAT'S WORTH MORE THAN ANY GOLD.
...EVEN IF THE ENEMY INVADED AND RAVAGED HIS LANDS.
BUT I ALSO FELT THAT HE WOULDN'T KILL A SINGLE PERSON...
MAYBE HE WAS JUST A FISHING NUT.
IT HURTS THAT MUCH?
SORRY.
HE'S CRY-ING.

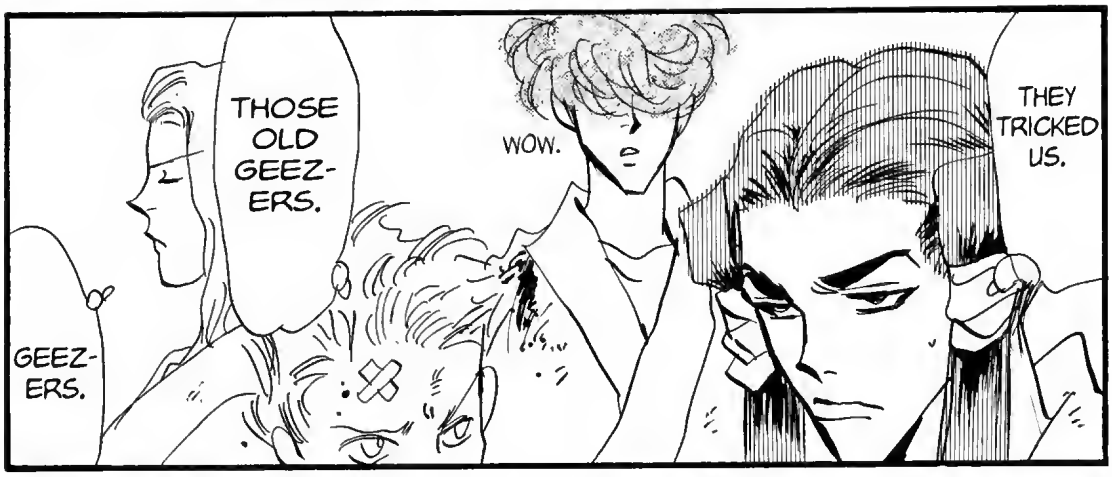
I THINK WE'VE BEEN DRUGGED.
COME TO THINK OF IT, THERE WAS A WEIRD SMELL.
I'M SORRY.
DOES IT HURT?
SOMETHING MUST'VE COME OVER ME.
HE WOULD BE KILLED ONLY WHEN HIS STRENGTH FINALLY GAVE OUT.
THAT WAS WHAT HIS SKILL WAS GOOD FOR.
...WAS THAT I'D WOUNDED MY FRIENDS.
WHAT HURT THE MOST...
A CANDLE?
HEY, THAT'S AGAINST THE RULES! WE WEREN'T ALLOWED TO BRING THOSE!
WE NEED LIGHT FIRST.
THERE.
AH SPRINKLED SAWDUST TO MARK OUR PATH.
IN THIS WIND?
IDIOT!
WELL, I FEEL KIND OF DEFLATED.
SHOULD WE TURN BACK?
ANYONE KNOW THE WAY?


HA...
WE CAN EAT THE SALA-MANDER IF WE HAVE TO.
AH BROUGHT MY KNIFE SET, TOO.
THERE, AH SAID IT.
WHO CARES ABOUT RULES?
WE HAVE TO GET OUT ALIVE.

SUDDENLY, WE FELT DRAINED OF ENERGY.
HEH.
HA HA! OW!
HA HA HA HA!

KCHANG
THAT'S ENOUGH!
HA HA HA HA!
THE MISSION DIDN'T SEEM TO MATTER ANYMORE.


THEY HAD BEEN WATCHING US ALL ALONG.
GO GET YOUR WOUNDS LOOKED AT.
THIS CONCLUDES THE TEST.
THE SALAMANDER IS THE GUARDIAN SPIRIT! NO EATING!
LIKE TAMON HAD SAID, THE CAVE WAS MAN-MADE.


THOSE OLD GEEZERS.
GEEZERS.
WOW.
THEY TRICKED US.

IT WAS GIVEN TO TAMON.
NOBODY COMPLAINED.

THE GENBU SWORD WAS MADE AS A WARNING.
ONLY THE DESERVING MAY WIELD IT.

I LEARNED A FEW THINGS FROM YOU.
?
THE REAL GENBU SWORD WAS BURIED DEEP UNDERGROUND.
AH DON'T NEED A SWORD...
BUT THIS CAN SWAT DOWN PERSIM-MONS.
BECAUSE IT WAS A BAMBOO SWORD.
HEH, PERFECT FOR YOU.
...WANT SOME CHER-RIES?
AH DON'T GET IT, BUT...
IN SOME WAY OR OTHER.
I'M NOT SURE.
I'M HAPPY TO KNOW YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS.
THAT'S PRETTY WONDER-FUL.
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HEARD YOU RAISE YOUR VOICE.

THE BEST TASTIN' CHERRIES ARE THE ONES THAT ALL HANG TOGETHER, LIKE THIS.
IT ALWAYS MAKES ME HAPPY TO SEE 'EM.
IT DON'T MEAN MUCH.
BUT IF AH HAD TO SAY... HERE.
IT DOESN'T?
I'VE BEEN WATCHING OVER HIM EVER SINCE.
I THINK I GET IT...
SORT OF.
THAT SHOUT ...
...IS ONE OF MY MOST PRECIOUS MEMORIES.
WE WERE SO YOUNG THEN.

TAKARA: END.

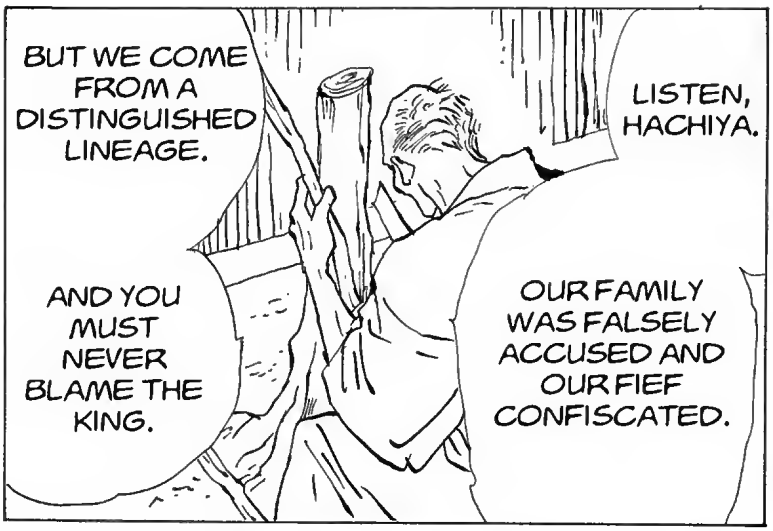
APPENDIX 9

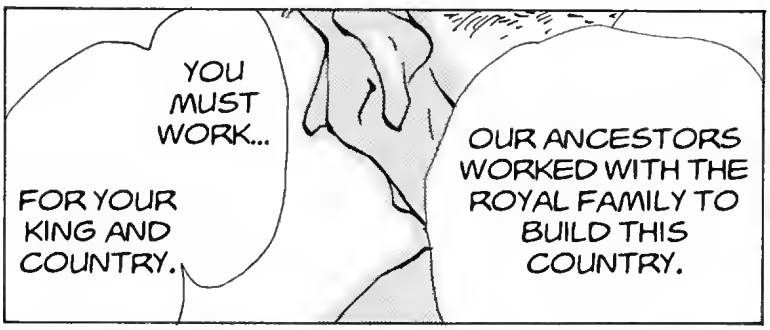
HAKAMA

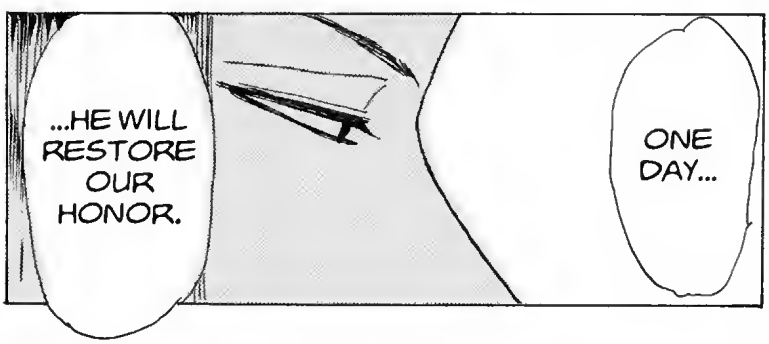
HAKAMA

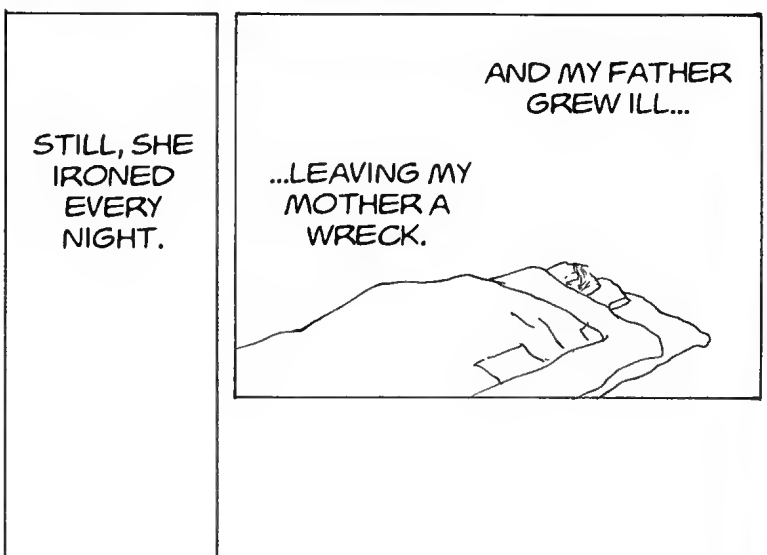
PURPLE STORY: PEAR

※OLD-FASHIONED CHARCOAL-BURNING IRON.


LISTEN, HACHIYA.
OUR FAMILY WAS FALSELY ACCUSED AND OUR FIEF CONFISCATED.
BUT WE COME FROM A DISTINGUISHED LINEAGE.
AND YOU MUST NEVER BLAME THE KING.

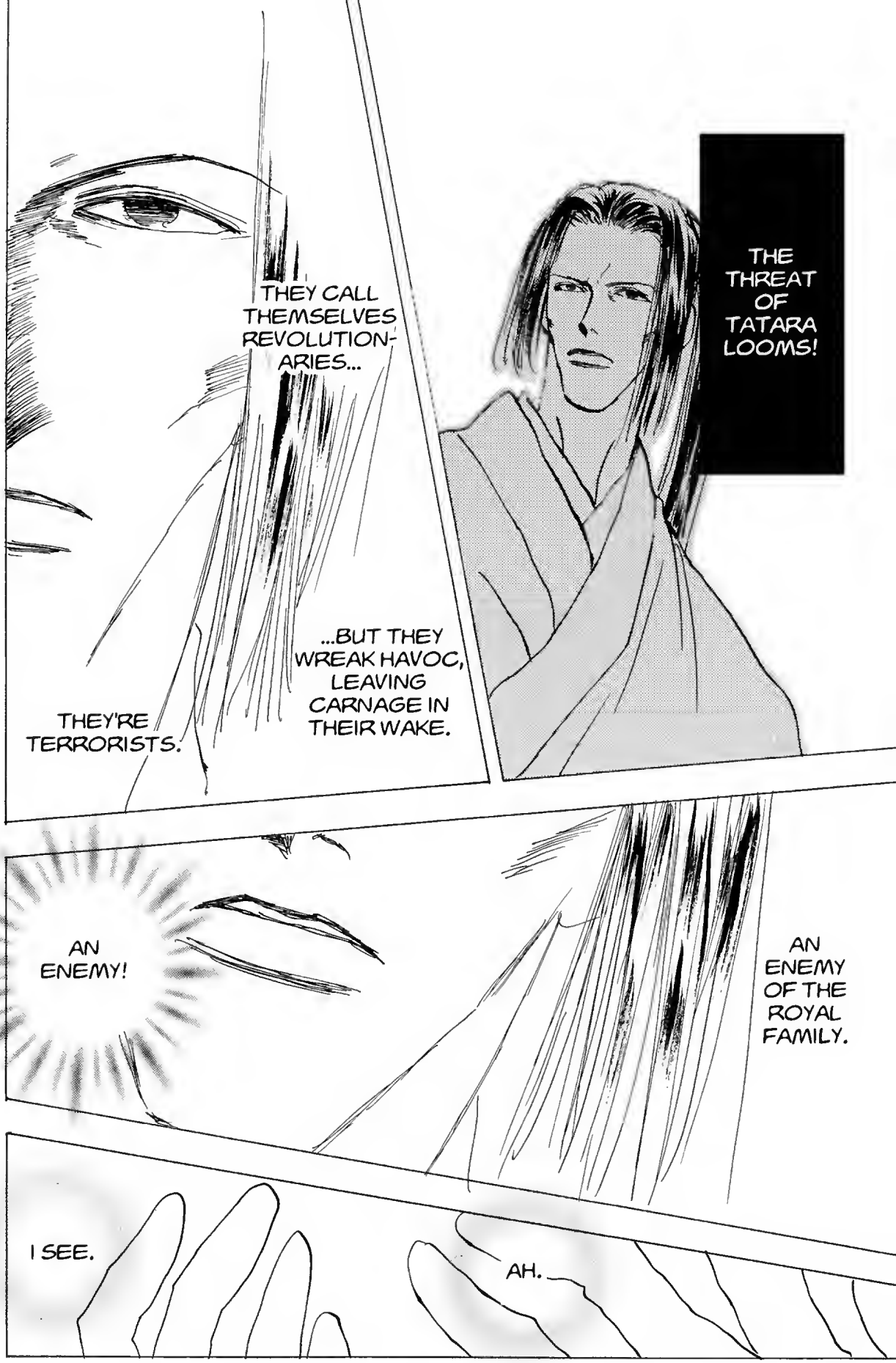

OUR ANCESTORS WORKED WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY TO BUILD THIS COUNTRY.
YOU MUST WORK...
FOR YOUR KING AND COUNTRY.


ONE DAY...
...HE WILL RESTORE OUR HONOR.


AND MY FATHER GREW ILL...
...LEAVING MY MOTHER A WRECK.
STILL, SHE IRONED EVERY NIGHT.

IT SEEMED SO FUTILE AND FRUITLESS.

MOTHER...
MOTHER...
WHAT IS ALL THIS FOR?
MOTHER?
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T SEE ANY MEANING?
YOU SEE?
...THE WAY YOU FEEL.
IT'S SUCH AN HONOR...
...TO WORK FOR YOUR COUN-TRY.
SOMEDAY, WE'LL DEVOTE OUR LIVES TO THEM AGAIN.
THE ROYAL FAMILY WOULD NEVER ABANDON US FOREVER.
I WANT TO FEEL...
THE CASTLE WILL SUMMON US ONE DAY, SOON.


THE THREAT OF TATARA LOOMS!
THEY CALL THEMSELVES REVOLUTION-ARIES...
...BUT THEY WREAK HAVOC, LEAVING CARNAGE IN THEIR WAKE.
THEY'RE TERRORISTS.
AN ENEMY!
AN ENEMY OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.
I SEE.
AH.

I'VE BEEN HIRED FOR THE KYOTO SECURITY PATROL.
I HOPE YOU'LL BE HAPPY NOW.
I CAN FEEL THE SAME AS YOU.
FOR THE FIRST TIME...
...I FEEL I CAN LOVE THE ROYAL FAMILY.
MOTHER.
EVERY NIGHT...
...I IRON MY FATHER'S HAKAMA.
MY MOTHER AND FATHER...
...DIED LONG AGO.

IN OUR FRONT YARD WAS A PEAR TREE MY FATHER HAD GRAFTED.

IT DIDN'T BEAR ANY FRUIT, BUT MY FATHER HATED THE WORD "FRUITLESS."

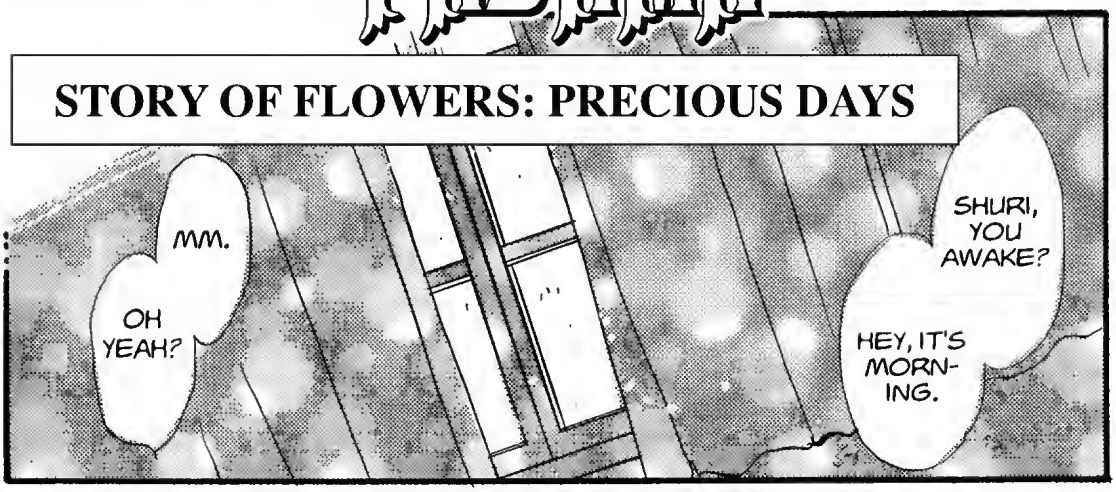
HE ALWAYS CALLED IT "FRUITFUL."

THAT TREE WAS LIKE OUR DREAMS OF PROSPERITY.

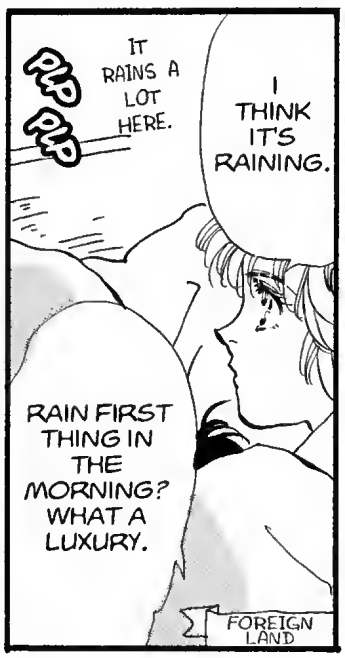
HAKAMA: END.

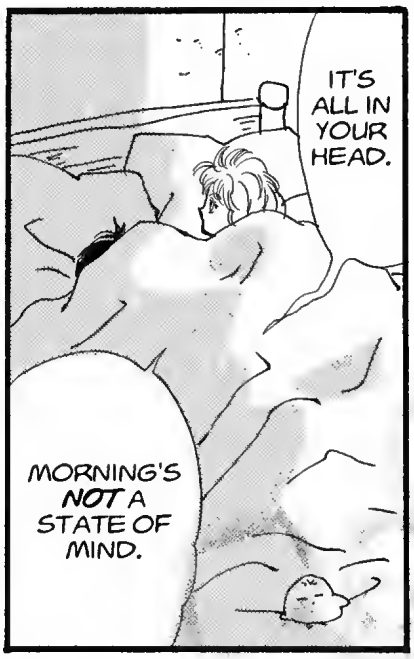
BASARA APPENDIX 10 PAJAMA

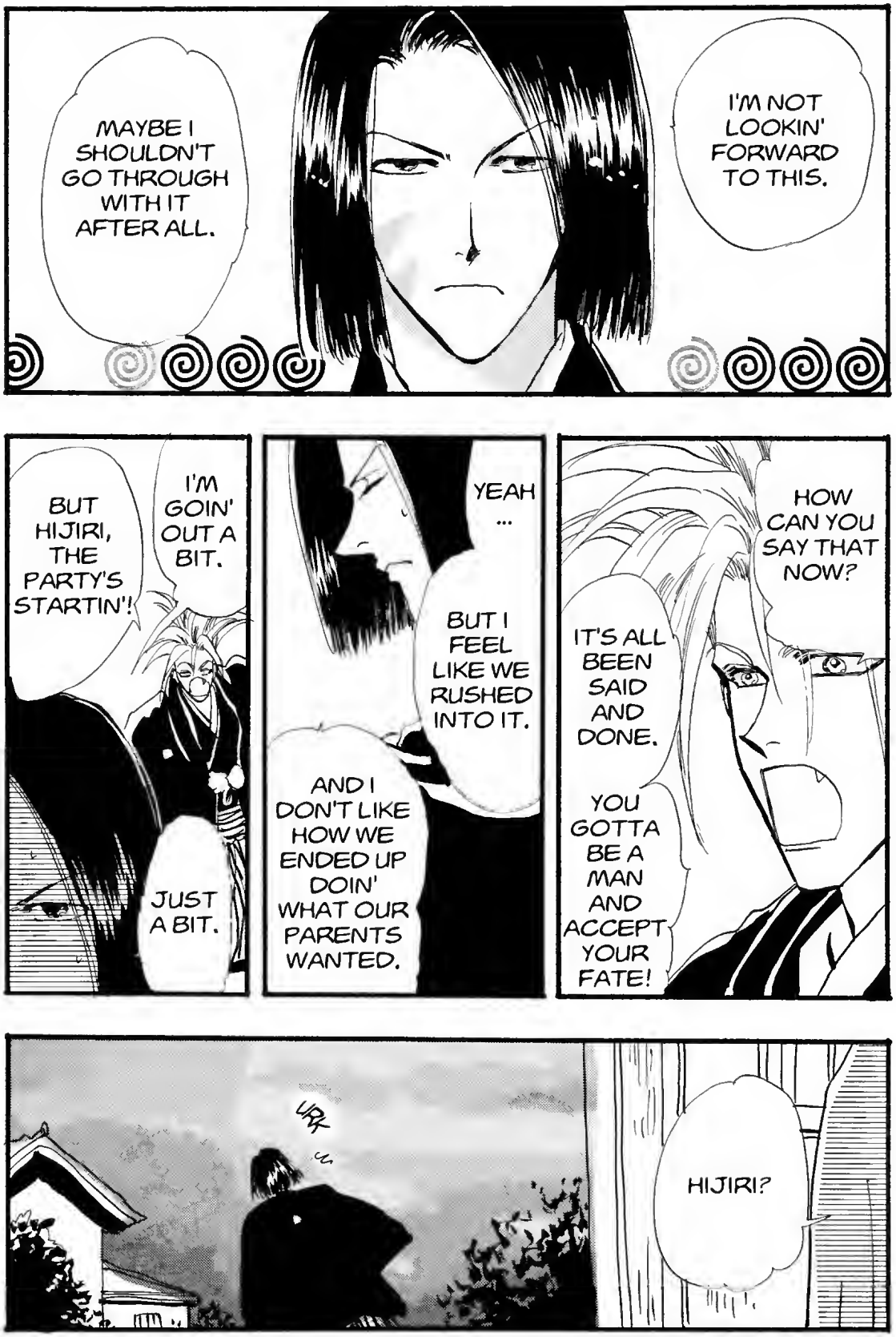
STORY OF FLOWERS: PRECIOUS DAYS



THIS TAKES PLACE AFTER "KANATA."



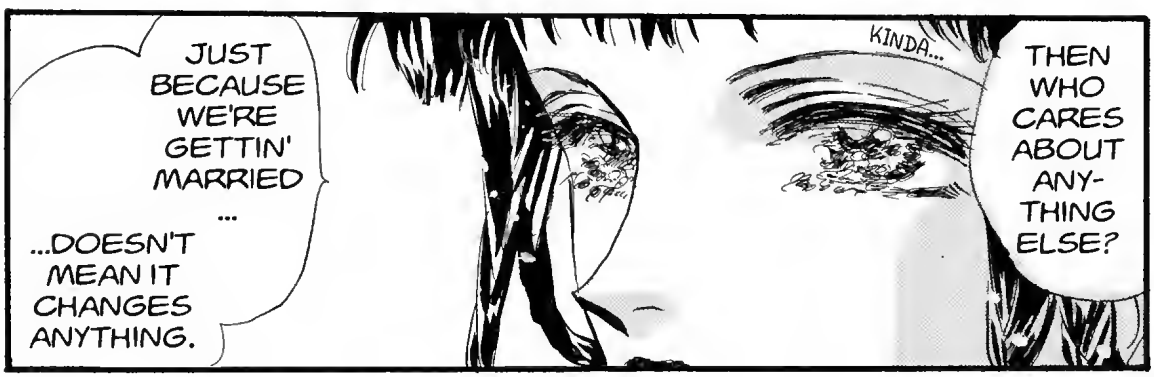



MAYBE I SHOULDN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT AFTER ALL.
I'M NOT LOOKIN' FORWARD TO THIS.
BUT HIJIRI, THE PARTY'S STARTIN'!
I'M GOIN' OUT A BIT.
JUST A BIT.
YEAH ...
BUT I FEEL LIKE WE RUSHED INTO IT.
AND I DON'T LIKE HOW WE ENDED UP DOIN' WHAT OUR PARENTS WANTED.
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT NOW?
IT'S ALL BEEN SAID AND DONE.
YOU GOTTA BE A MAN AND ACCEPT YOUR FATE!
URK
HIJIRI?

WHERE ARE YOU GOIN'?
OUR WEDDING'S TONIGHT.
KAORUKO FIANCÉE
I'M NOT GOIN' ANY-WHERE.
JUST OUT FOR A STROLL.
IF...
...YOU DON'T LIKE ME, JUST SAY SO.
IT'S PRETTY INSULTIN' TO WATCH YOU FIDGET AROUND.

☆SEE "NAKAMA"

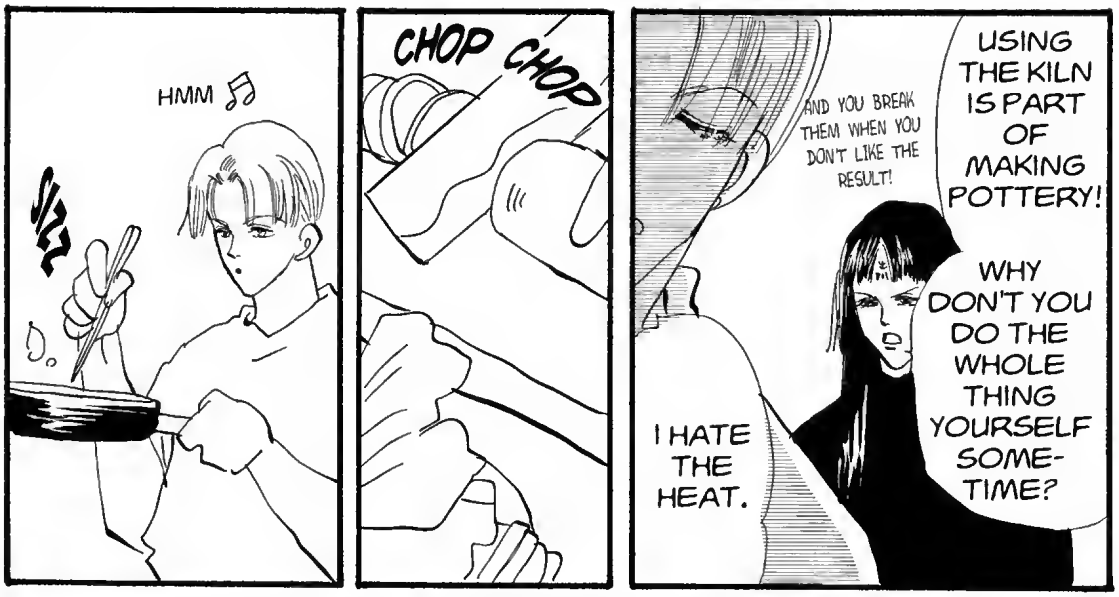
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T LIKE YOU.
YOU'RE A COOL PERSON, AND I'M PRETTY FOND OF YOU.


THEN WHO CARES ABOUT ANY-THING ELSE?
KINDA...
JUST BECAUSE WE'RE GETTIN' MARRIED ...
...DOESN'T MEAN IT CHANGES ANYTHING.

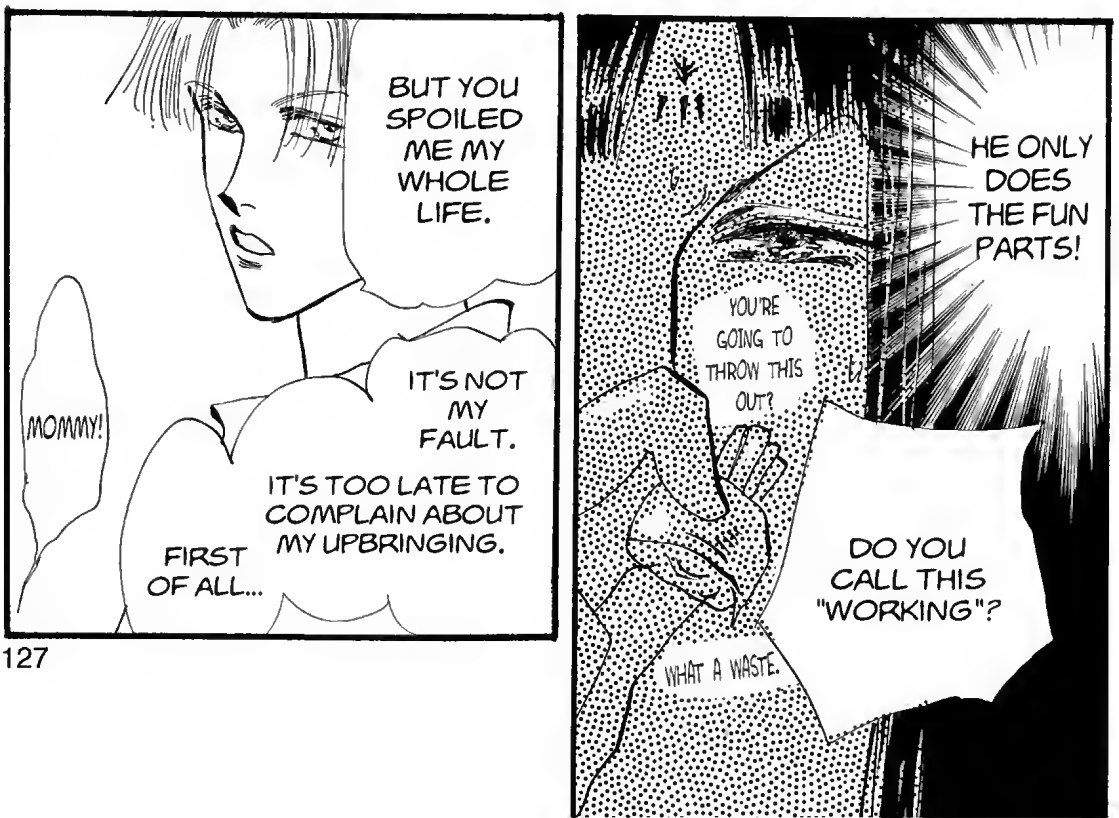
...YOU ALWAYS FEEL RESPON-SIBLE...
...FOR SOLVING PROB-LEMS BY YOUR-SELF.
I'M READY FOR THIS.
I'M FOND OF YOU, TOO.
HIJIRI...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CHANGE.
AND I WON'T CHANGE, EITHER.
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT?
WE'RE GETTIN' MARRIED...
...SO WE CAN SHARE THESE BURDENS TOGETHER.

KIKUNE, LET'S GET MARRIED, TOO!
I MADE THIS CAMERA!
AND I'LL SEND A PICTURE TO SARASA!
ICHIMATSU, BE QUIET!
YADDA
LINE UP!
NACHI, YOU'RE IN THE WAY! SIT DOWN!
TM
TM
TM
TM
WE'RE SO BUSY!
MY HEAD'S SPINNIN'!
I DUNNO WHY!
KCH
FWM
I'M READY!
DO YOU PLAN TO WATCH?
GOOD LUCK TONIGHT, HIJIRI!

HE'S THE ONE WHO HATES ME.
I DON'T KNOW WHY.
WHY DO YOU HATE HIM SO MUCH?
SHU-RI?
HIJIRI SAID IN HIS LETTER...
THAT ASAGI'S BEEN MAKING POT-TERY LATELY.
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT HIM.
I DON'T THINK HE HATES YOU...
I'M NOT SO SURE...
MURATAKE, FIRE THESE UP FOR ME.
ALL DONE.
KNEAD
WHAT?
YOU MADE SOME MORE?
WHRL
WHRL

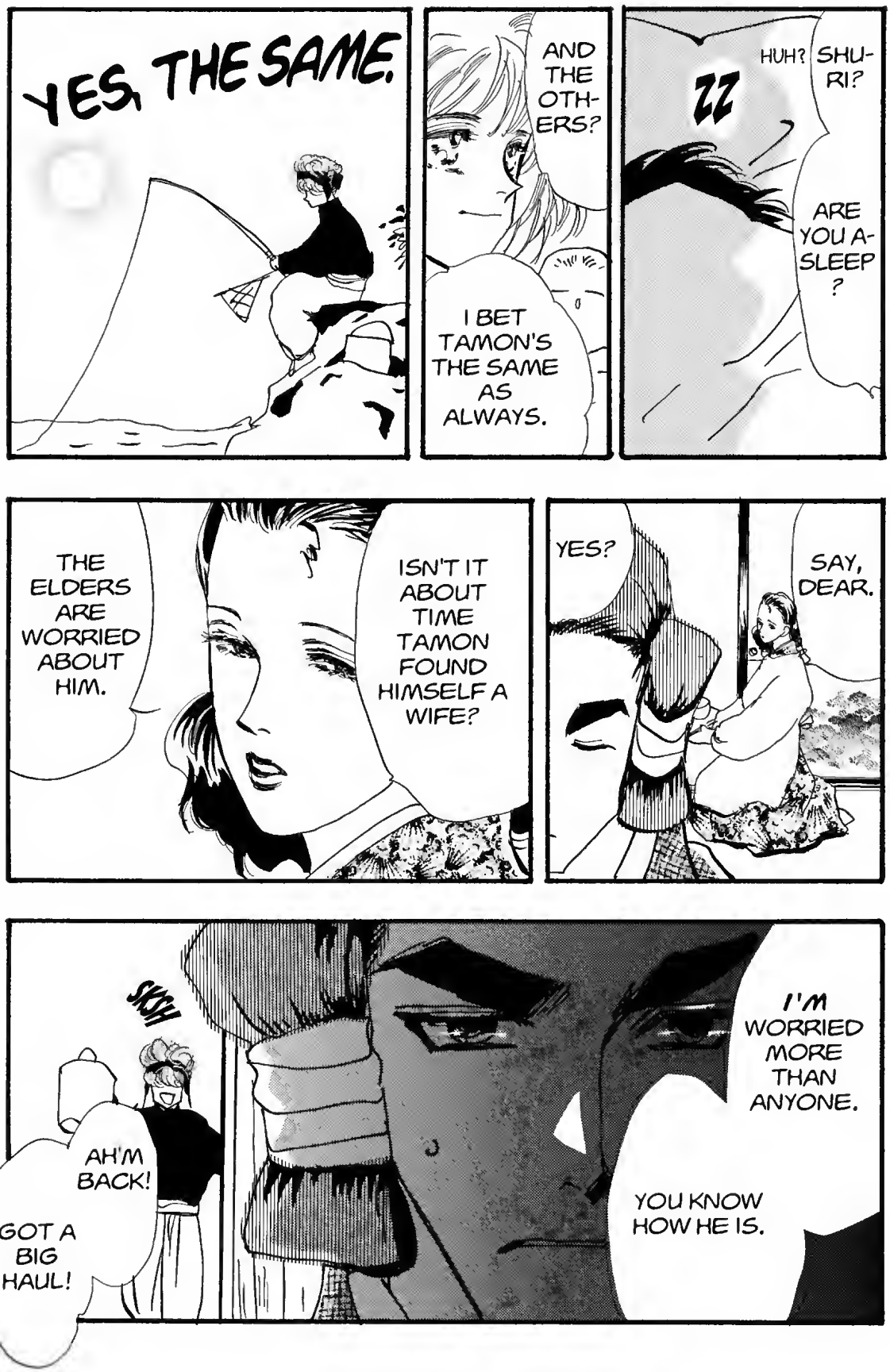

HMM
SIZZ
CHOP CHOP
I HATE THE HEAT.
AND YOU BREAK THEM WHEN YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESULT!
USING THE KILN IS PART OF MAKING POTTERY!
WHY DON'T YOU DO THE WHOLE THING YOURSELF SOME-TIME?

MESS!
MURA-TAKE, CLEAN UP THAT MESS, WOULD YOU?

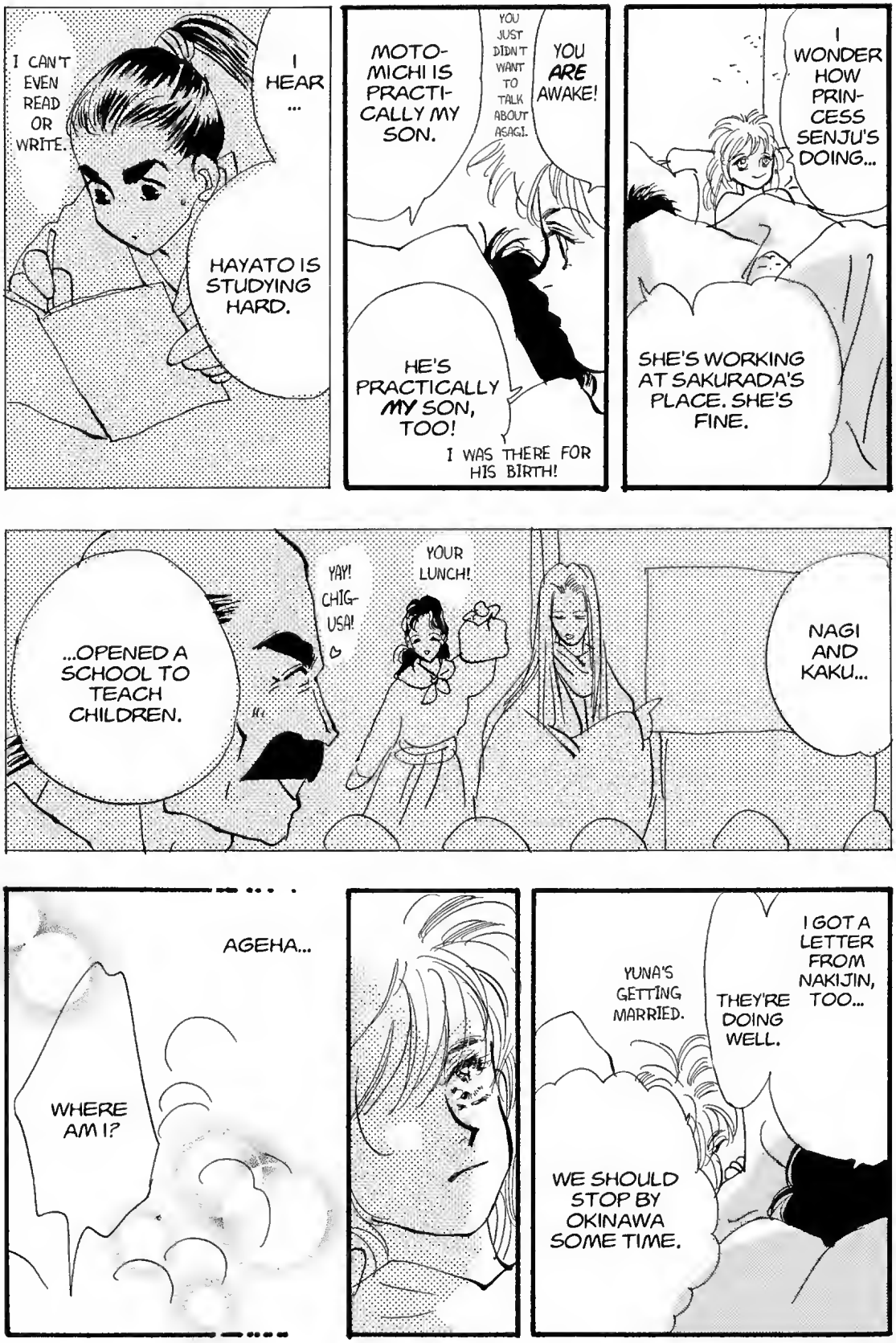

MOMMY!
BUT YOU SPOILED ME MY WHOLE LIFE.
IT'S NOT MY FAULT.
IT'S TOO LATE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT MY UPBRINGING.
FIRST OF ALL...
HE ONLY DOES THE FUN PARTS!
YOU'RE GOING TO THROW THIS OUT?
DO YOU CALL THIS "WORKING"?
WHAT A WASTE.

I'LL GO ASK AROUND THE AREA.
IS SHE LOST? I HOPE SHE WASN'T ABAN-DONED.
HIC SOB
WHO'S THIS LITTLE GIRL?
WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
I DUNNO! I WANT MY MOMMY!
MOMMY!
WAAH
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
SHE REMINDS ME A LITTLE OF TATARA.
SUCH A BABY...
MIDORI.

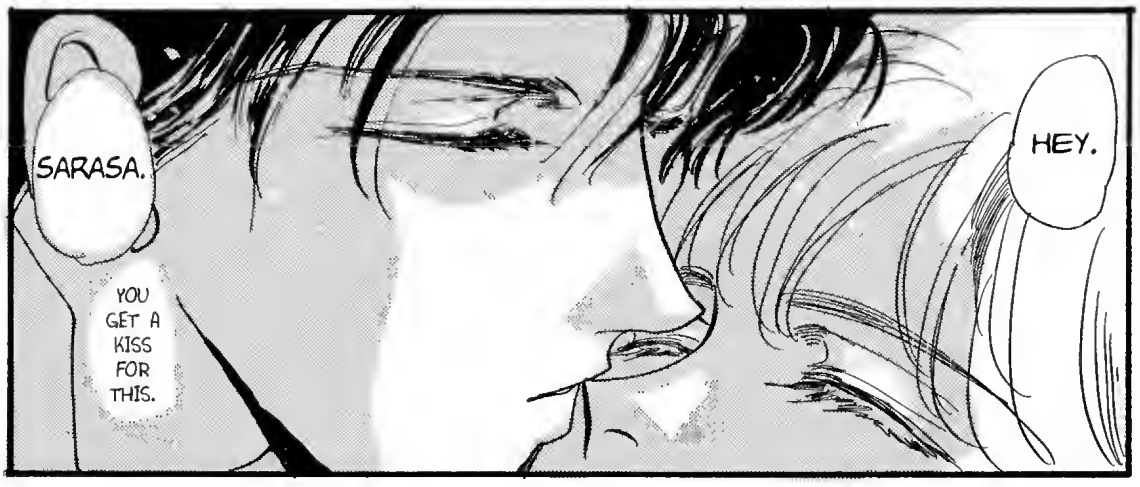
IS HE TRYING TO DO WHAT THE WHITE KING DID?
NO WAY.
SHUT UP.
YOU CAN'T EVEN TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!
I'M BETTER AT TAKING CARE OF OTHERS.
WHAT?
YOU'RE GOING TO RAISE HER?
...MAYBE IT'S NOT SUCH A BAD THING.
WELL...
ALL THEY DO IS PLAY.
MOMMY!
YES, YES.
NOW THERE'S MORE LAUNDRY.


YES, THE SAME.
AND THE OTH-ERS?
I BET TAMON'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS.
ZZ
HUH? SHU-RI?
ARE YOU A-SLEEP ?
THE ELDERS ARE WORRIED ABOUT HIM.
ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME TAMON FOUND HIMSELF A WIFE?
YES?
SAY, DEAR.
SKSH
AH'M BACK!
GOT A BIG HAUL!
I'M WORRIED MORE THAN ANYONE.
YOU KNOW HOW HE IS.

LIKE ME.
THAT'S GREAT! REMEMBER, BE AGGRESSIVE IN THE CHASE.
MASUNAGA, YOU CAN'T CHASE. YOU GOTTA REEL 'EM IN.
OH?
SHE WAS THE PURTIEST AH'VE EVER SEEN!
AH MET A REAL BEAUTY TODAY!
I THINK YOU'VE HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD.
YOUR SECRET.
AH, I SEE.
A REAL BEAUTY!
I'VE BEEN REELED IN!
I THOUGHT YOU KNEW HIM.
PERHAPS WE DON'T NEED TO WORRY, SAYURI.


I CAN'T EVEN READ OR WRITE.
I HEAR...
HAYATO IS STUDYING HARD.
MOTO-MICHI IS PRACTI-CALLY MY SON.
YOU JUST DIDN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT ASAGI.
YOU ARE AWAKE!
HE'S PRACTICALLY MY SON, TOO!
I WAS THERE FOR HIS BIRTH!
I WONDER HOW PRIN-CESS SENJU'S DOING...
SHE'S WORKING AT SAKURADA'S PLACE. SHE'S FINE.
...OPENED A SCHOOL TO TEACH CHILDREN.
YAY! CHIG-USA! ♡
YOUR LUNCH!
NAGI AND KAKU...
AGEHA...
WHERE AM I?
YUNA'S GETTING MARRIED.
I GOT A LETTER FROM NAKIJIN, TOO...
THEY'RE DOING WELL.
WE SHOULD STOP BY OKINAWA SOME TIME.

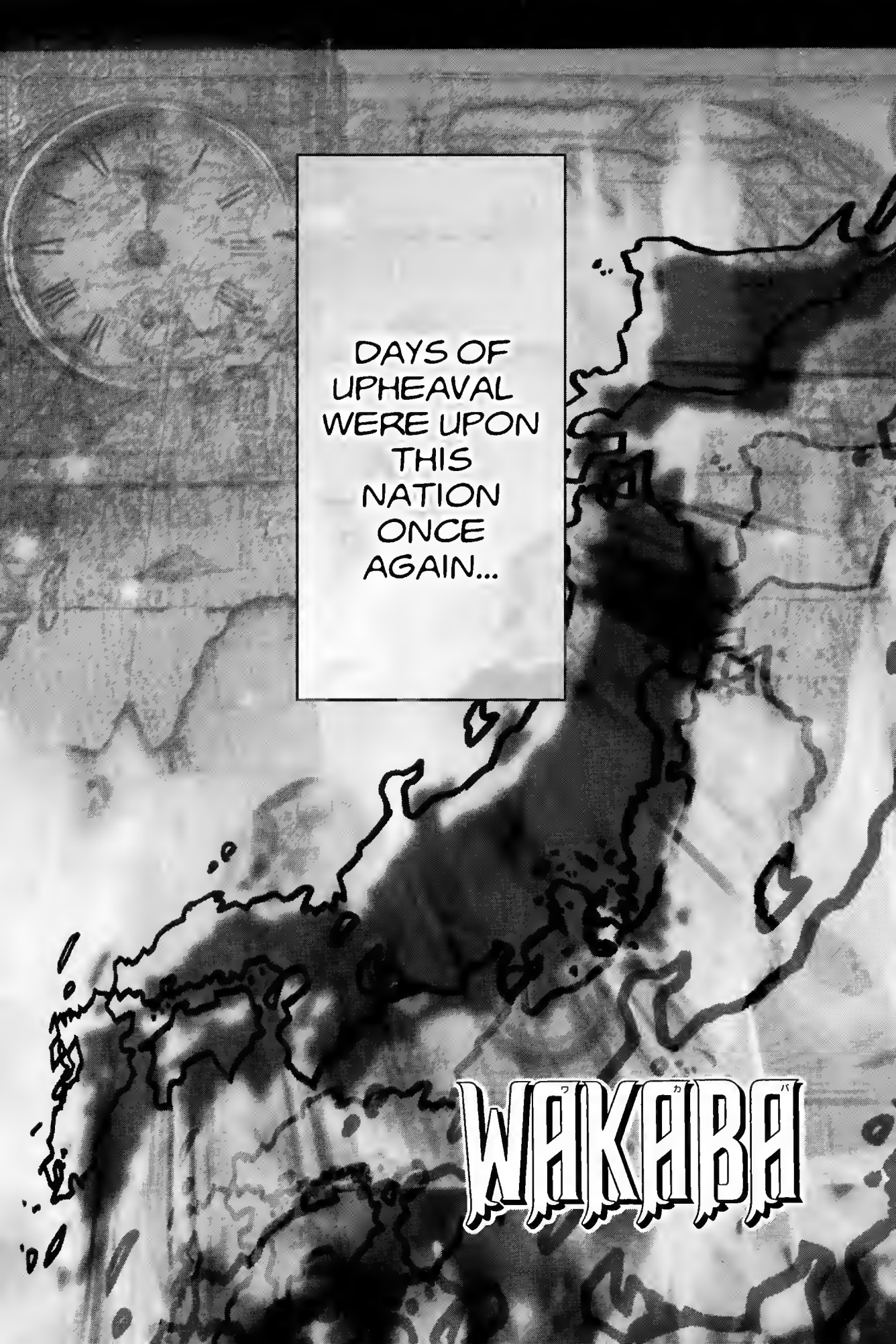
*THE LORD OF THE DEAD IN JAPANESE BUDDHIST TRADITION.


SARASA.
YOU GET A KISS FOR THIS.
HEY.

OH WELL.
ZZ
HMM...

RAINY MORN-INGS ARE FOR STAY-ING IN.
THE END.

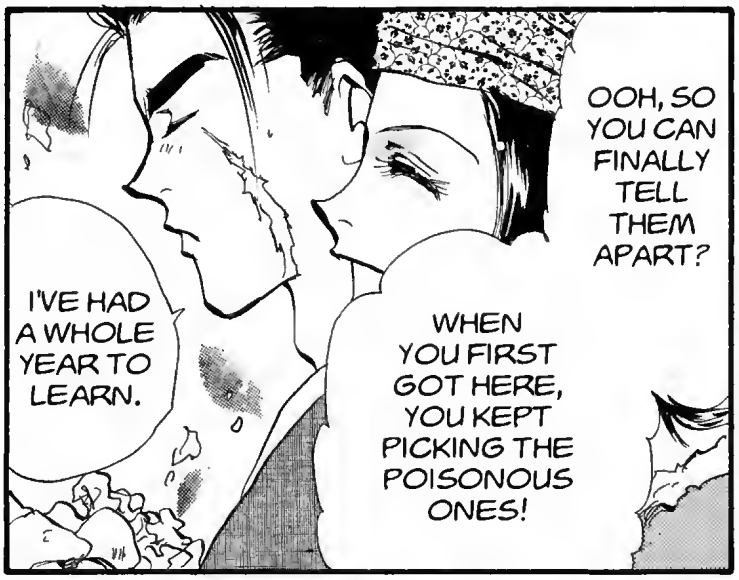
PAJAMA: END.


DAYS OF UPHEAVAL WERE UPON THIS NATION ONCE AGAIN...
WAKABA

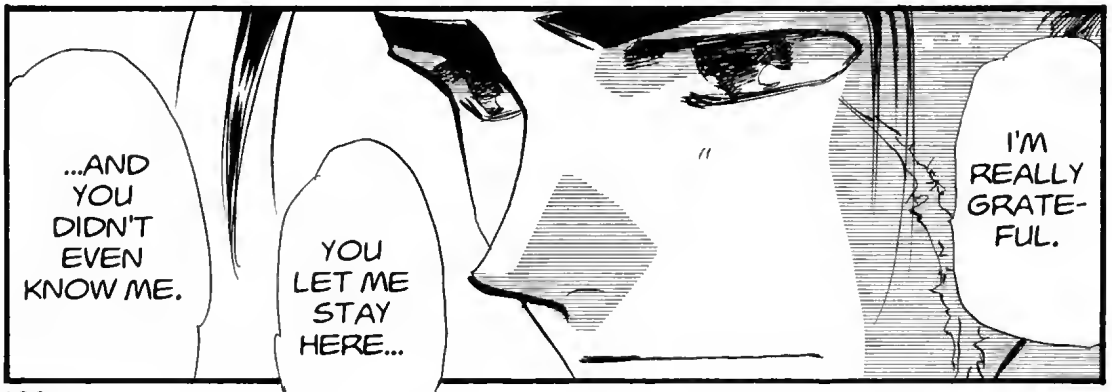
BASARA APPENDIX·11·
WAKABA
YOUNG LEAVES
GREEN STORY: WALNUT

YET ONE YOUNG MAN *REFUSED* TO STIR...
SHUN! SHUN, WHERE ARE YOU?

THERE YOU ARE!
GRANDPA WANTED TO BREAK FOR LUNCH.
SURE.
TAKE A LOOK, NANA.

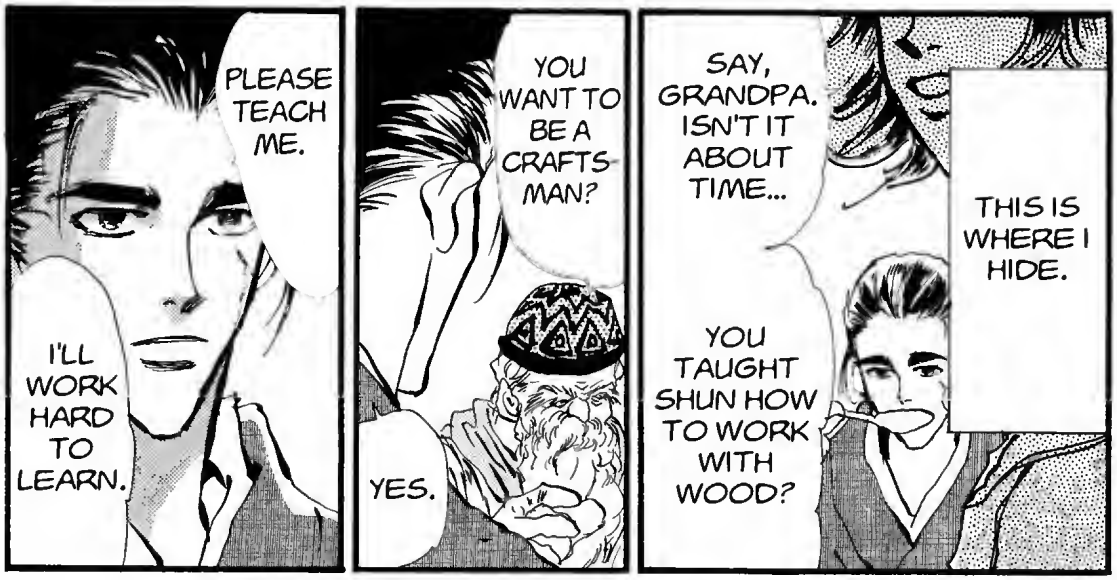

OOH, SO YOU CAN FINALLY TELL THEM APART?
WHEN YOU FIRST GOT HERE, YOU KEPT PICKING THE POISONOUS ONES!
I'VE HAD A WHOLE YEAR TO LEARN.

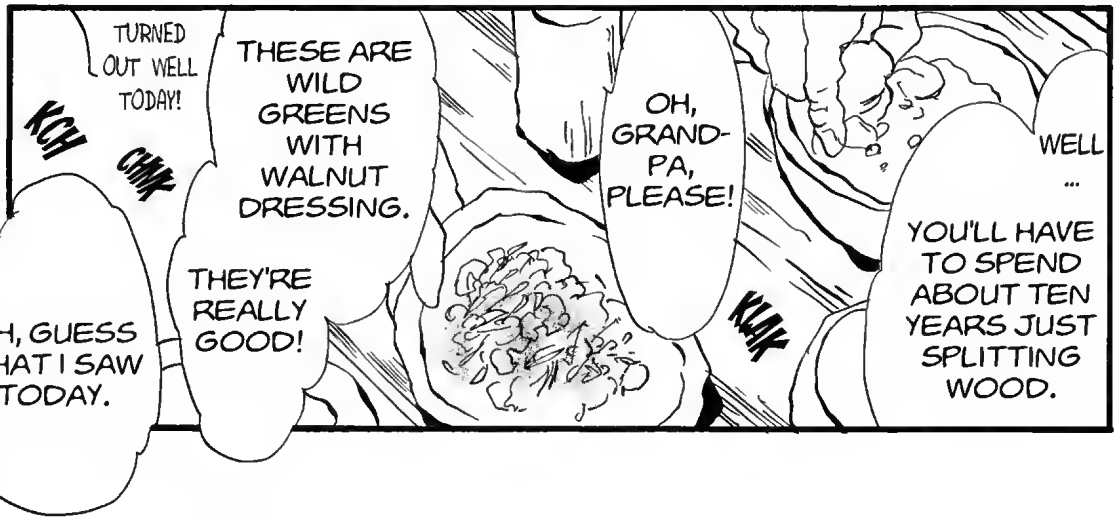
I GOT A LOT OF HEN OF THE WOODS.
AND MATSU-TAKE AND OYSTER MUSH-ROOMS.
AND FIREWOOD.


I'M REALLY GRATE-FUL.
YOU LET ME STAY HERE...
...AND YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ME.

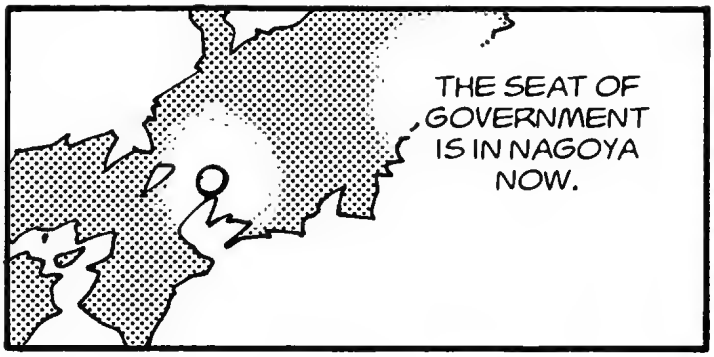
YOU DIDN'T LOOK LIKE A BAD PERSON BY ANY STRETCH OF THE IMAGINA-TION.
WELL ...
YOU MEAN I DIDN'T LOOK SMART ENOUGH TO CON YOU?
IT'S ALL RIGHT. THAT'S WHAT EVERY-ONE SAYS.
TEE HEE
IT'S NOT A BAD THING!
GRAND-PA!
LUNCH IS READY!
THE OLD MAN IS A CRAFTS-MAN.
HMPH.

HE USES THE LOCAL WALNUT TREES...
OOH!
SHUN PICKED THESE MUSH-ROOMS!
...TO BUILD FURNITURE AND OTHER THINGS.

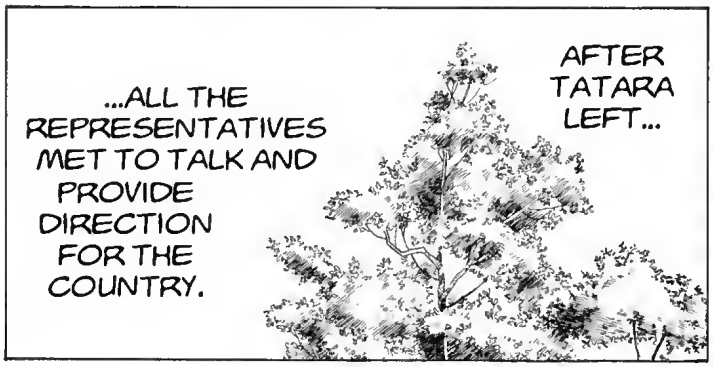

THIS IS WHERE I HIDE.
SAY, GRANDPA. ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME...
YOU TAUGHT SHUN HOW TO WORK WITH WOOD?
YOU WANT TO BE A CRAFTS-MAN?
YES.
PLEASE TEACH ME.
I'LL WORK HARD TO LEARN.

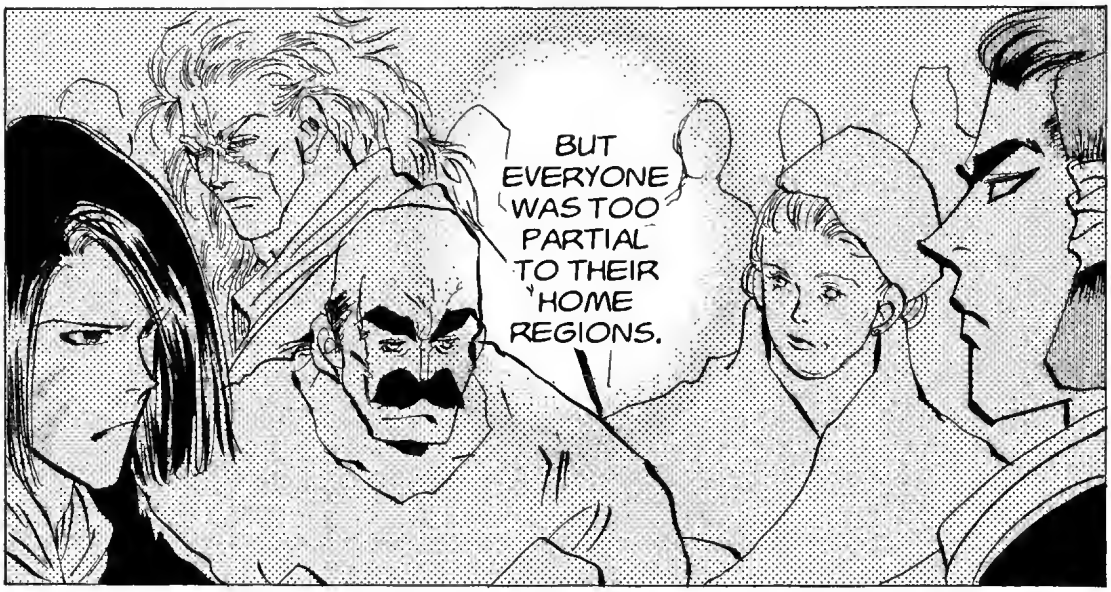

WELL ...
YOU'LL HAVE TO SPEND ABOUT TEN YEARS JUST SPLITTING WOOD.
KLINK
OH, GRAND-PA, PLEASE!
THESE ARE WILD GREENS WITH WALNUT DRESSING.
THEY'RE REALLY GOOD!
TURNED OUT WELL TODAY!
KCH
CHNK
OH, GUESS WHAT I SAW TODAY.

SOME MORE SOLDIERS DOWN THE MOUNTAIN.
THEY WERE LOOKING FOR SOME-ONE.
A GUY CALLED HAYA-TO.
I WONDER IF HE'S A FUGITIVE...
KIND OF A WILD NAME.
THEY'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE, TOO.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, GRAND-PA?
OCH POP
HMM...
I HATE SOLDIERS AND THE MILITARY.
THEY SAY WALNUT IS GOOD MATERIAL FOR GUN HANDLES.
CENTRAL GOVERN-MENT WANTED TO PLACE A LARGE ORDER.
HERE.
THEY TOLD ME TO STOP MAKING FURNITURE AND MAKE GUNS INSTEAD.

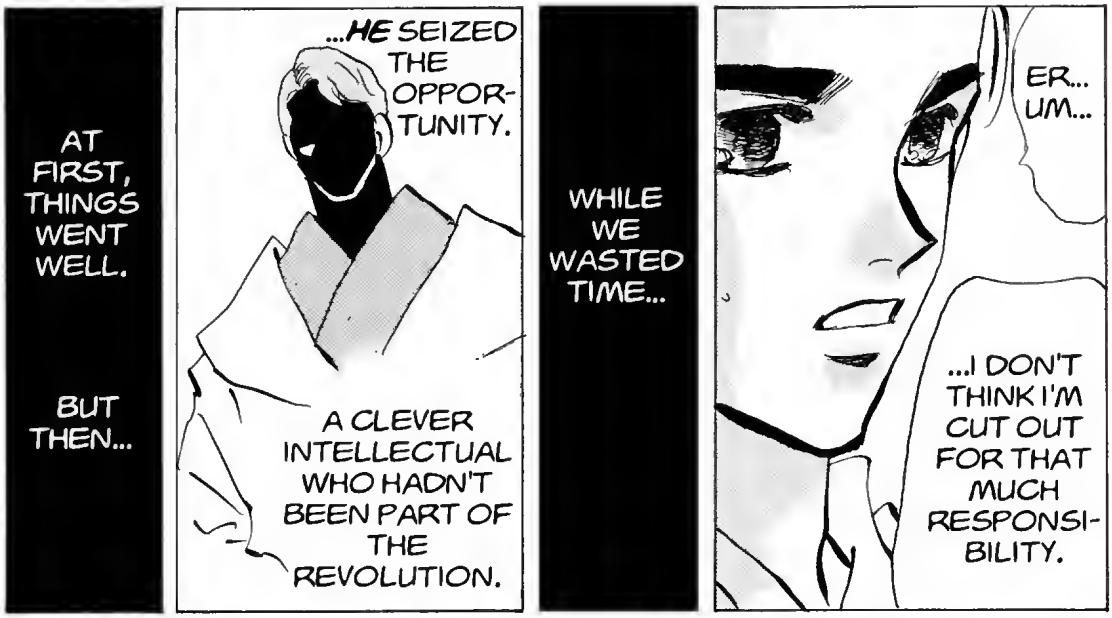

THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT IS IN NAGOYA NOW.

CENTRAL ...
DON'T DRINK TOO MUCH, GRAND-PA.


AFTER TATARA LEFT...
...ALL THE REPRESENTATIVES MET TO TALK AND PROVIDE DIRECTION FOR THE COUNTRY.

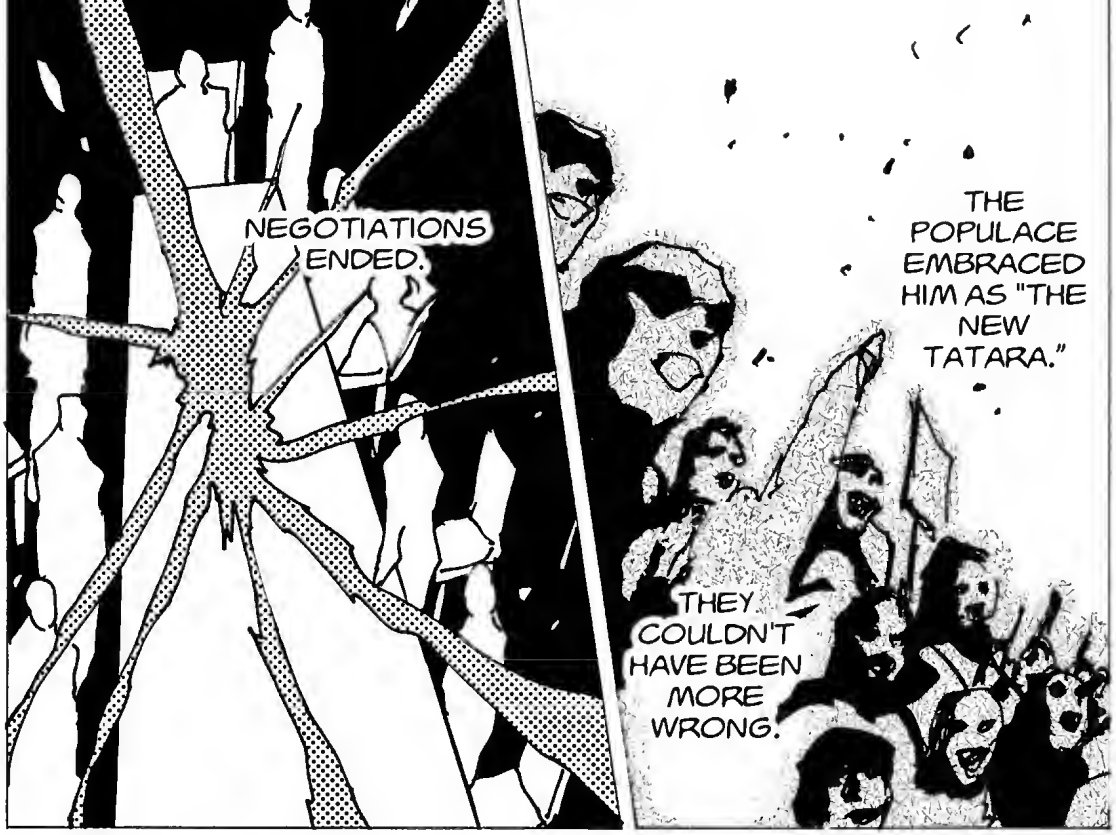

BUT EVERYONE WAS TOO PARTIAL TO THEIR HOME REGIONS.

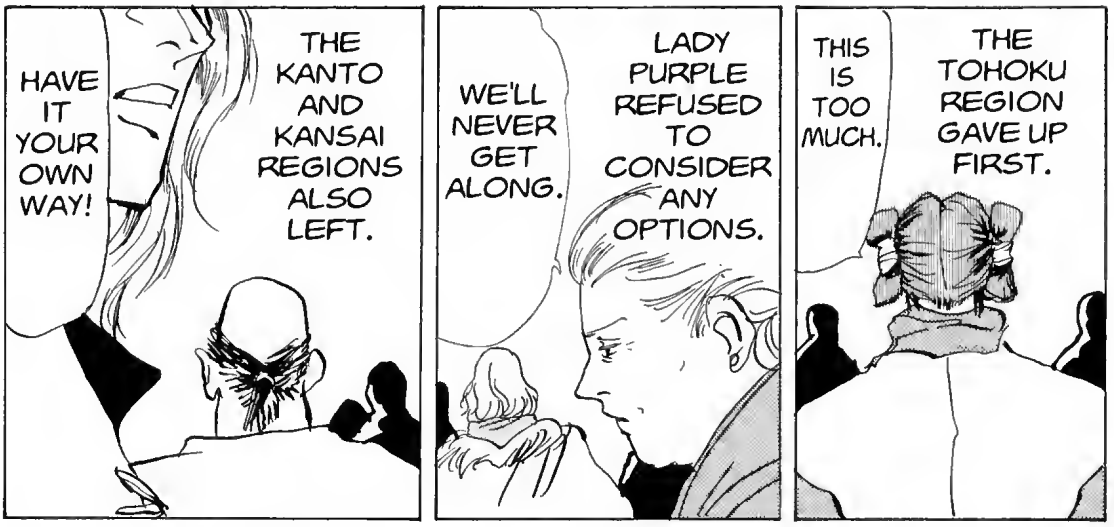
WHO, ME? BE THE LEADER?
WILL YOU DO IT, HAYATO?
WE NEEDED A LEADER TO DEVELOP A CONSENSUS.

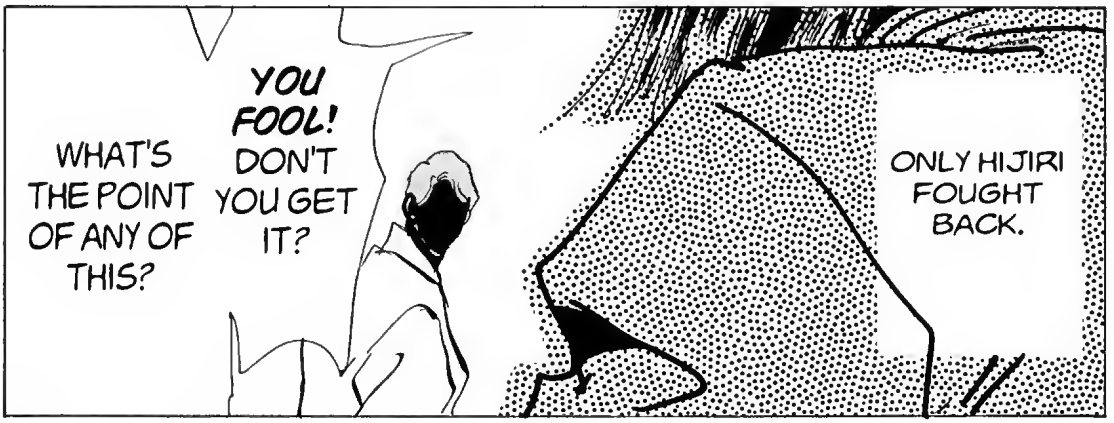

AT FIRST, THINGS WENT WELL.
BUT THEN...
...HE SEIZED THE OPPOR-TUNITY.
A CLEVER INTELLECTUAL WHO HADN'T BEEN PART OF THE REVOLUTION.
WHILE WE WASTED TIME...
ER... UM...
...I DON'T THINK I'M CUT OUT FOR THAT MUCH RESPONSI-BILITY.

WE NEED MORE RESOURCES!
...HIS POLICIES GREW MORE AND MORE MILITARISTIC.

...AND CLAIM THE LANDS ON THE CONTINENT AS OUR OWN!
WE'LL ENHANCE OUR MILITARY STRENGTH ...
THE COUNTRY MUST BE UNITED FOR A PURPOSE!


NEGOTIATIONS ENDED.
THE POPULACE EMBRACED HIM AS "THE NEW TATARA."
THEY COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE WRONG.


HAVE IT YOUR OWN WAY!
THE KANTO AND KANSAI REGIONS ALSO LEFT.
WE'LL NEVER GET ALONG.
LADY PURPLE REFUSED TO CONSIDER ANY OPTIONS.
THIS IS TOO MUCH.
THE TOHOKU REGION GAVE UP FIRST.


WHAT'S THE POINT OF ANY OF THIS?
YOU FOOL! DON'T YOU GET IT?
ONLY HIJIRI FOUGHT BACK.

I ALWAYS FELT LOST...
STOP!
EVERYONE! STOP IT!
...UNSURE OF WHAT TO DO...
WAAH
IT TURNED INTO A FREE-FOR-ALL.
SAY WHAT?
YOU YAKUZA BUMPKIN!
WAAH
WAAH
WOSH
HAYA-TO!
OH!
SORRY!
PLP
PLP
PLP

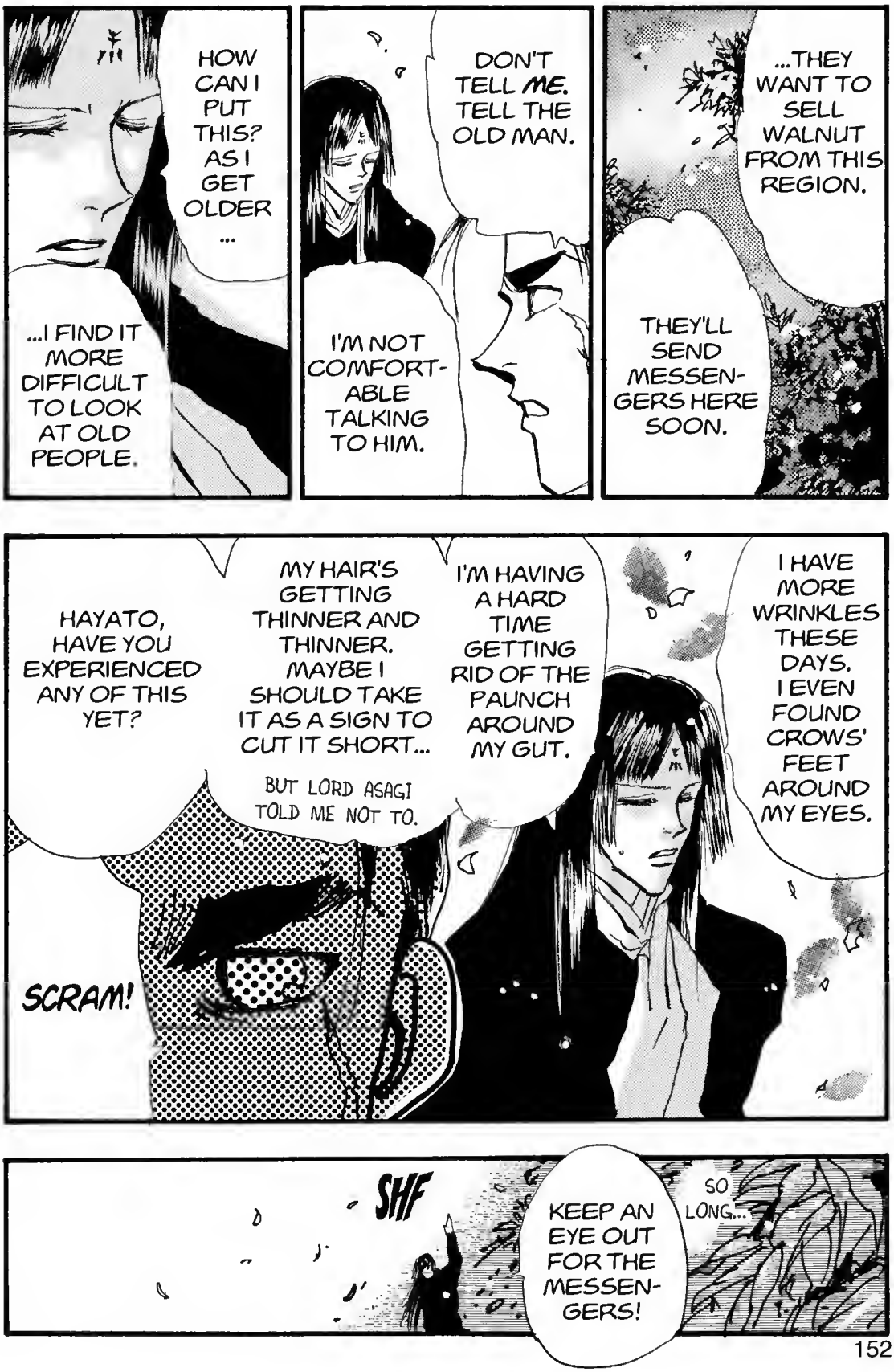
I CAN'T DO THIS!
THIS ISN'T "GOVERNMENT"!
I'M SICK AND TIRED OF IT!
WHAT IS THIS?
WHY AM I EVEN HERE?
AT LEAST, THOSE WERE MY EXCUSES.
I WAS IRRITATED AND DISILLUSIONED. IT ALL SEEMED RIDICULOUS.
I ASSUMED THE NAME "SHUN"-- AN ALTER-NATE READING OF MY NAME.
HMM.
IT'S STUB-BORN, HUH?
THAT SHELL WAS SO THICK AND HARD, I COULDN'T GET IT TO CRACK OPEN.
AND I RAN FAR, FAR AWAY...
WHAT'S THIS WALNUT DOING HERE?
HM?

STUBBORN?
IT WAS FUN TRAVELING WITH TATARA.
HAYATO!
OR JUST AFRAID?
WE WERE ALL UNITED.
HAYATO, GET IT TOGETHER!
WHY DID YOU LEAVE US?
WHY?
HOW COULD YOU?

HAYATO!
CHP
PEEP
CHIRP
I'M JUST LIKE THIS WALNUT...
IF TATARA HAD BEEN THERE...
...IT WOULD'VE BEEN DIFFERENT.
THAT'S ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT THESE DAYS.
...THAT CAN'T BREAK THROUGH ITS SHELL...

FSH
WHOA!
WAIT! IT'S ME!
TK
TOK
TOK
I DON'T CARE HOW MANY TIMES YOU COME HERE. I'M NOT GOING BACK.
YOU AGAIN.
MURA-TAKE ...
YOU'RE VERY FAST.
YOU IM-PROVE EVERY TIME I SEE YOU.
SAY.
THEY'RE LOOKING FOR YOU. EVERY-ONE'S WORRIED.
YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE YOU FOUND ME, HAVE YOU?

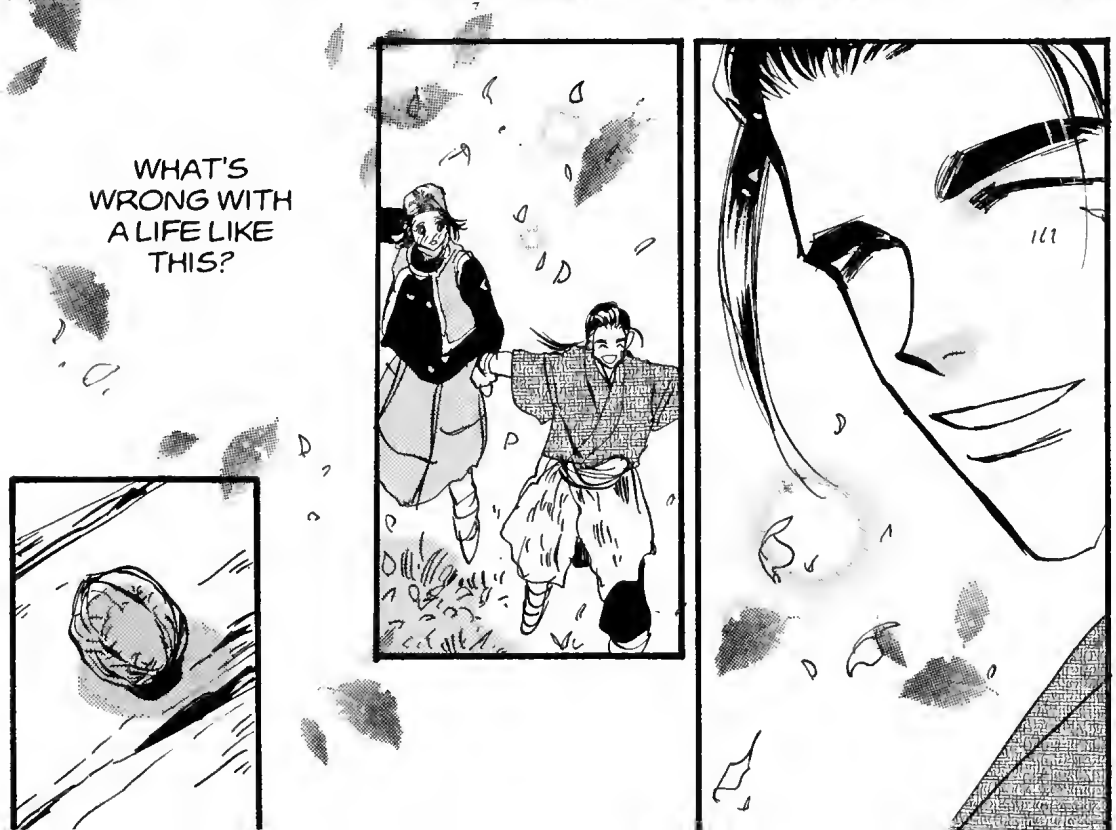
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD...
OF GREEN TRADING, INC., BASED IN EUROPE?
THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE TODAY.
WHAT?
UM...
I DIDN'T SAY IT.
NO.
NOT REALLY.
THEY'VE INVESTED VAST AMOUNTS OF CAPITAL IN WESTERN JAPAN...
AND STARTED A TREE-PLANTING CAMPAIGN.
IT'S A TRADING COMPANY ACTIVE ALL OVER THE WORLD.
THEY'RE BRANCHING OUT INTO JAPAN VIA A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SAKAIS.
I PREFER THE TERM "INFORMATION ACTIVITIES."
ANYWAY ...
YOU MEAN AS A SPY?
WELL, WITH MY EXPERIENCE FROM MY PREVIOUS CAREER...
I HAVE SOME TIES TO THEM AS WELL.
I'VE HEARD RUMORS.
SO?

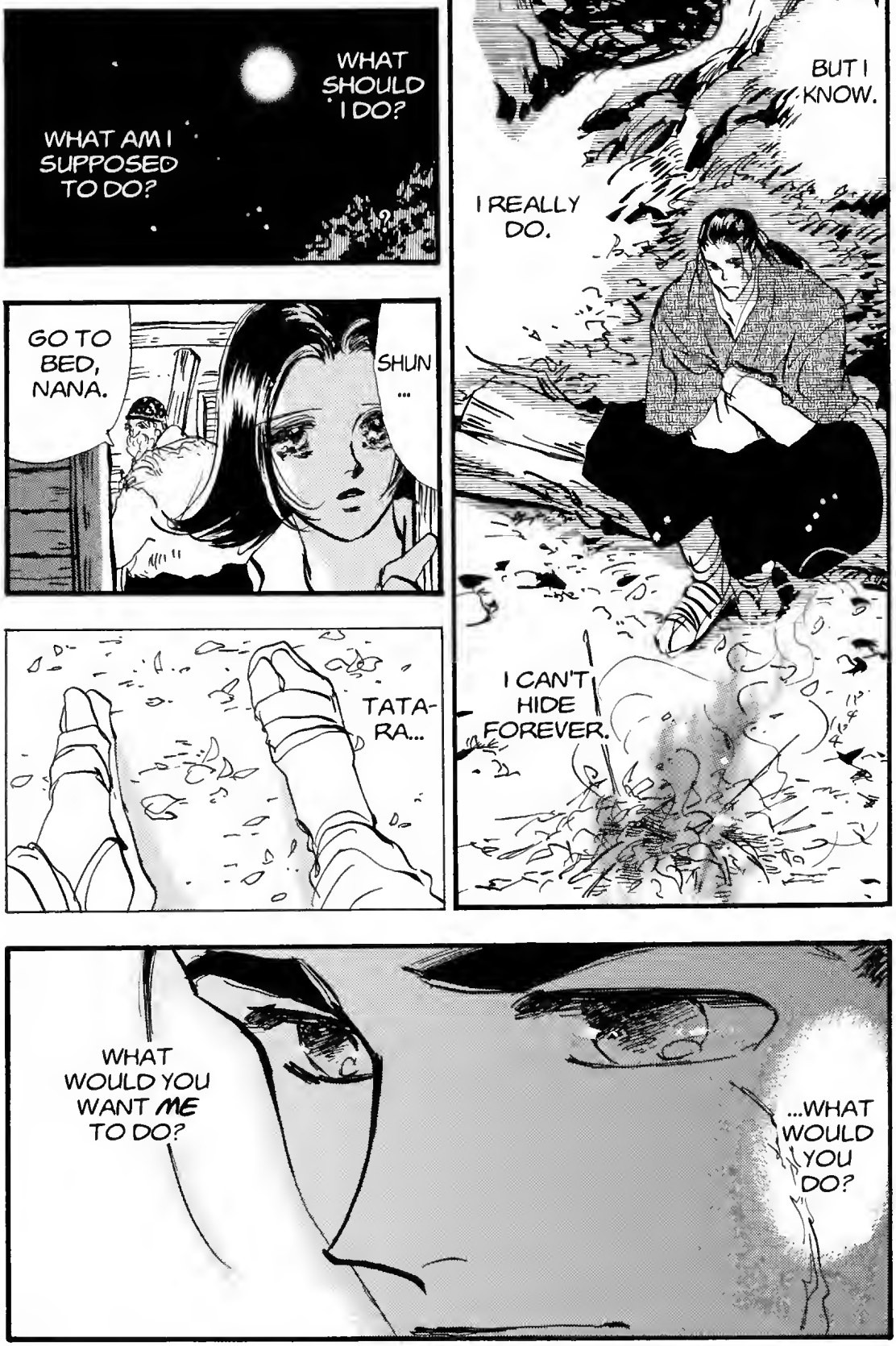

HOW CAN I PUT THIS? AS I GET OLDER ...
...I FIND IT MORE DIFFICULT TO LOOK AT OLD PEOPLE.
DON'T TELL ME. TELL THE OLD MAN.
I'M NOT COMFORT-ABLE TALKING TO HIM.
...THEY WANT TO SELL WALNUT FROM THIS REGION.
THEY'LL SEND MESSEN-GERS HERE SOON.
HAYATO, HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY OF THIS YET?
SCRAM!
MY HAIR'S GETTING THINNER AND THINNER. MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE IT AS A SIGN TO CUT IT SHORT...
BUT LORD ASAGI TOLD ME NOT TO.
I'M HAVING A HARD TIME GETTING RID OF THE PAUNCH AROUND MY GUT.
I HAVE MORE WRINKLES THESE DAYS. I EVEN FOUND CROWS' FEET AROUND MY EYES.
SHF
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THE MESSEN-GERS!
SO LONG...

DON'T YOU WONDER WHAT THIS HAYATO DID?
HUH?
HMM...
WHO COULD HE BE?
MORE SOLDIERS WERE WANDERING AROUND DOWN THE ROAD.
ARE THEY STILL LOOKING?
HUH?
NO.
SHF
HEY, WAS SOMEONE HERE?
AS IF!
IS THAT TRUE FOR YOU?
OH...
NEVER MIND.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.
MAYBE HE CAN'T GO BACK EVEN IF HE WANTS TO.
I BET HE'S BEEN DYING TO TEACH YOU HIS CRAFT.
BUT YOU KNOW, GRANDPA REALLY IS HAPPY YOU'RE HERE.

SINCE MY DAD DIED, I THINK...
HE'S BEEN LONELY WITHOUT ANYONE TO TAKE OVER THE BUSINESS.
I'M TOO CLUMSY.
SO IF YOU COULD STAY, SHUN, AND BE A CRAFTS-MAN...

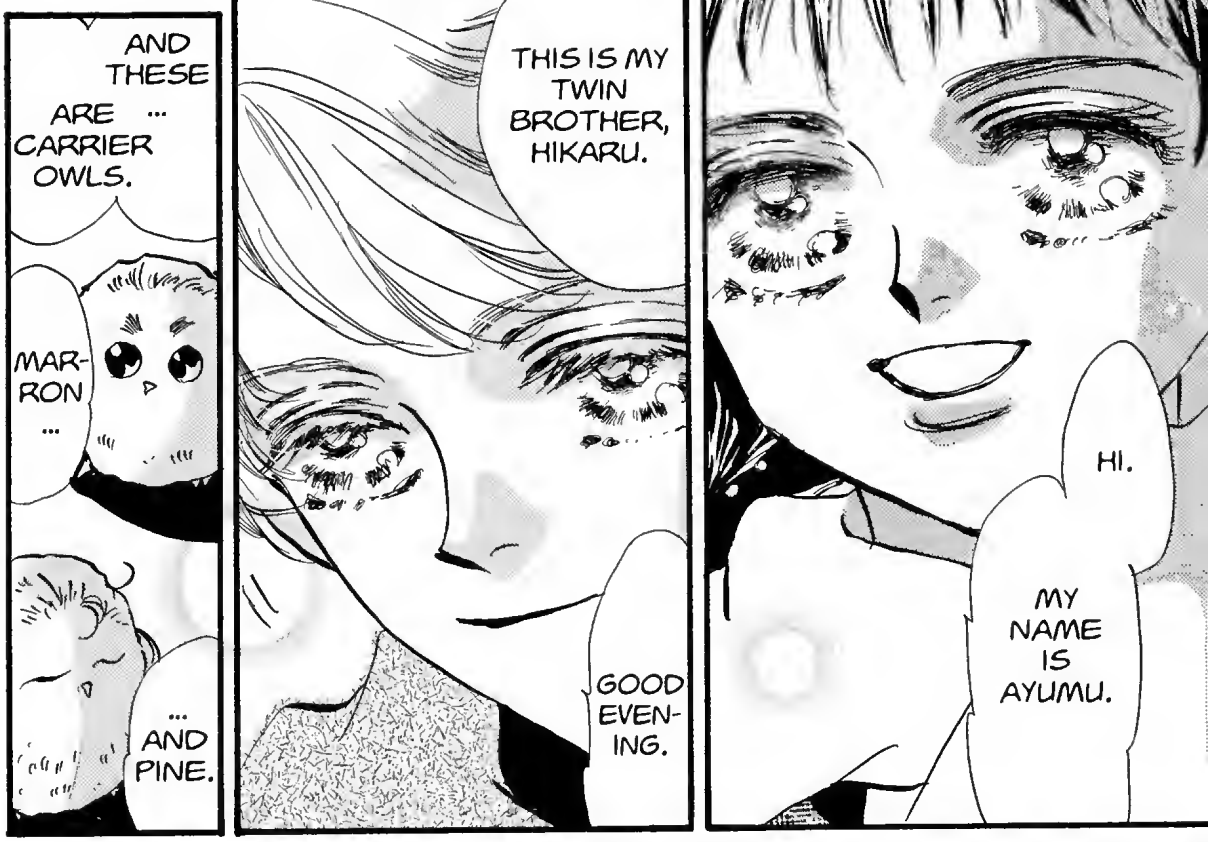
D-DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA!
I-I'M NOT SAYING...
...YOU SHOULD MARRY INTO THE FAMILY OR ANYTHING, ALL RIGHT?

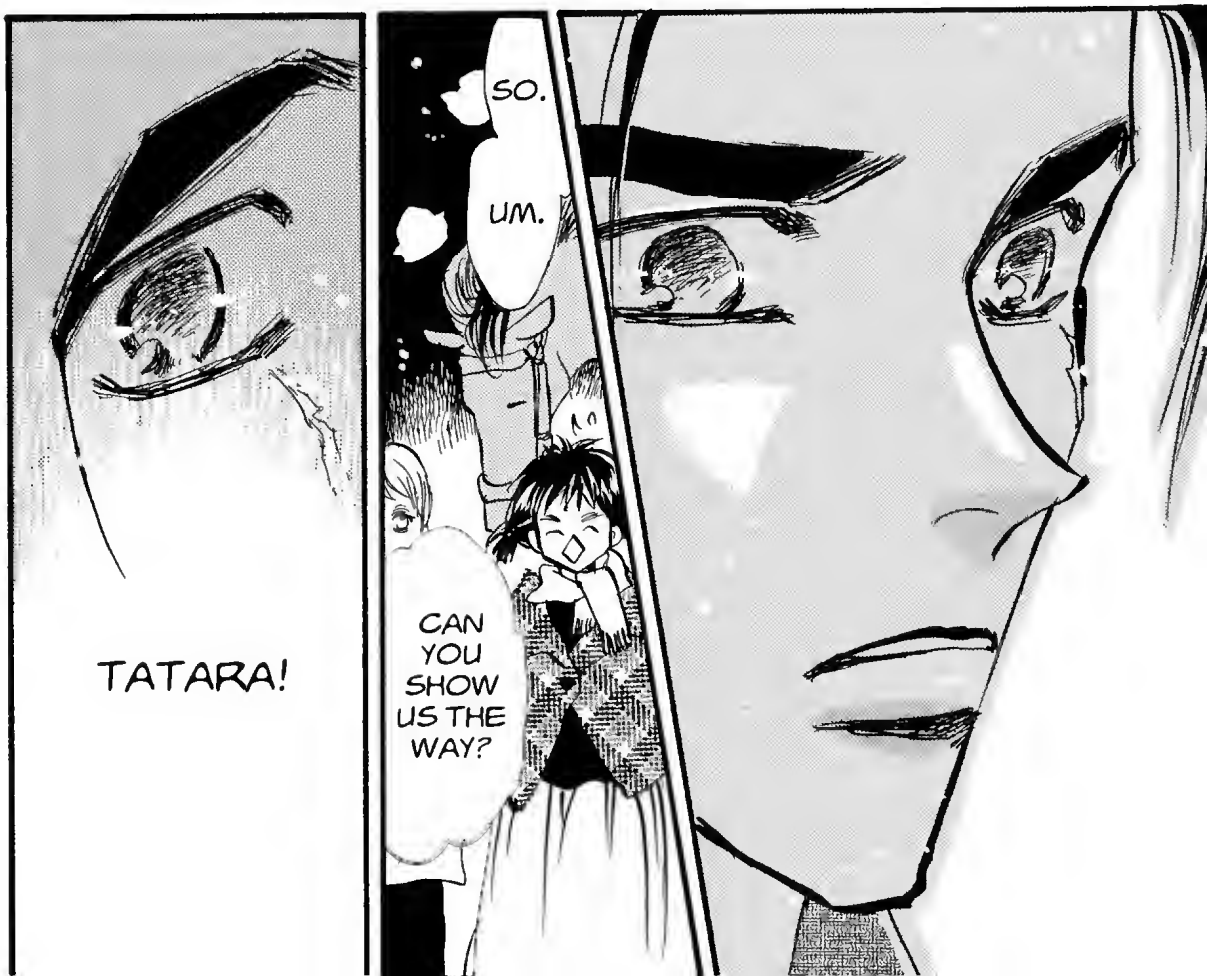

WHAT'S WRONG WITH A LIFE LIKE THIS?


WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
BUT I KNOW.
I REALLY DO.
GO TO BED, NANA.
SHUN ...
TATA-RA...
I CAN'T HIDE FOREVER.
WHAT WOULD YOU WANT ME TO DO?
...WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

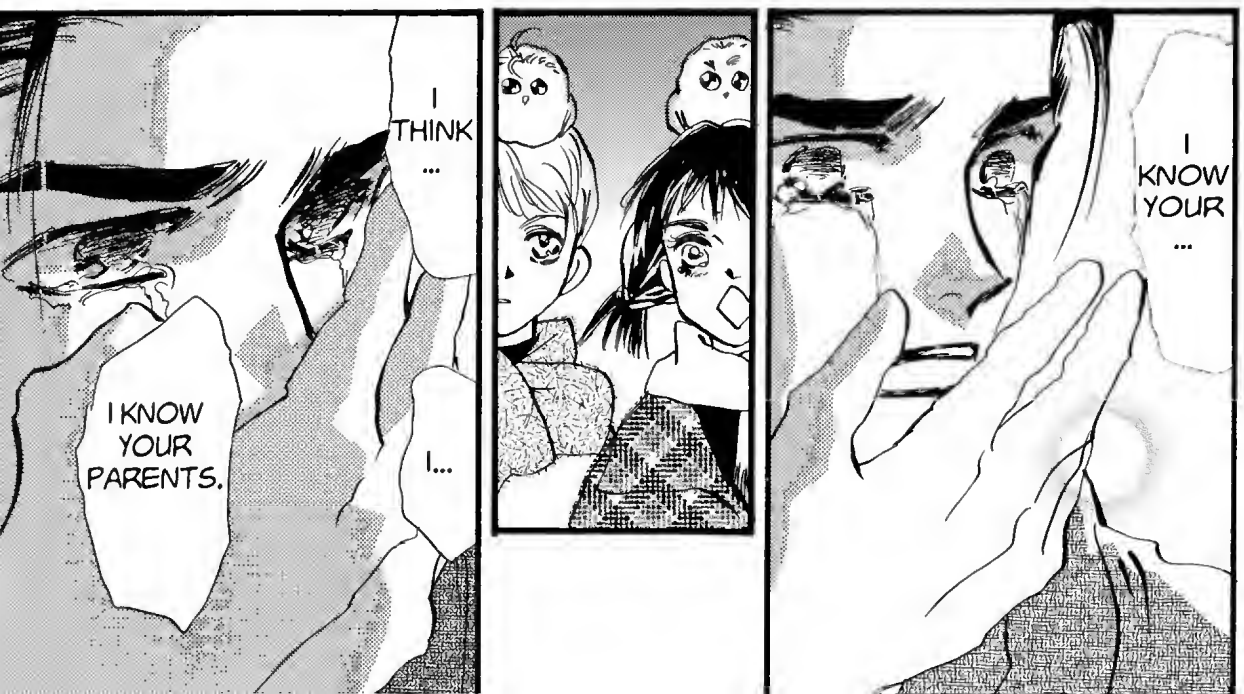
WILL THEY LET US STAY THE NIGHT?
KLOP
KLOP
SIGH ...
IT'S GOT-TEN SO LATE.
TATA-RA!
KLOP
KLOP
KTA
KTA
KTA
TATARA...
ER, EXCUSE ME.
DOES THE WALNUT CRAFTSMAN LIVE AROUND HERE?

GOOD. WE HAD IT RIGHT.
MAP
DO YOU LIVE THERE?
HUH?
YEAH.
JUST UP THIS HILL.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
WE'RE FROM GREEN TRADING, INC.


HI.
MY NAME IS AYUMU.
THIS IS MY TWIN BROTHER, HIKARU.
GOOD EVEN-ING.
AND THESE ARE ... CARRIER OWLS.
MAR-RON ...
... AND PINE.


SO.
UM.
CAN YOU SHOW US THE WAY?
TATARA!

TATARA!


I KNOW YOUR PARENTS.
I THINK ...
I...
I KNOW YOUR ...

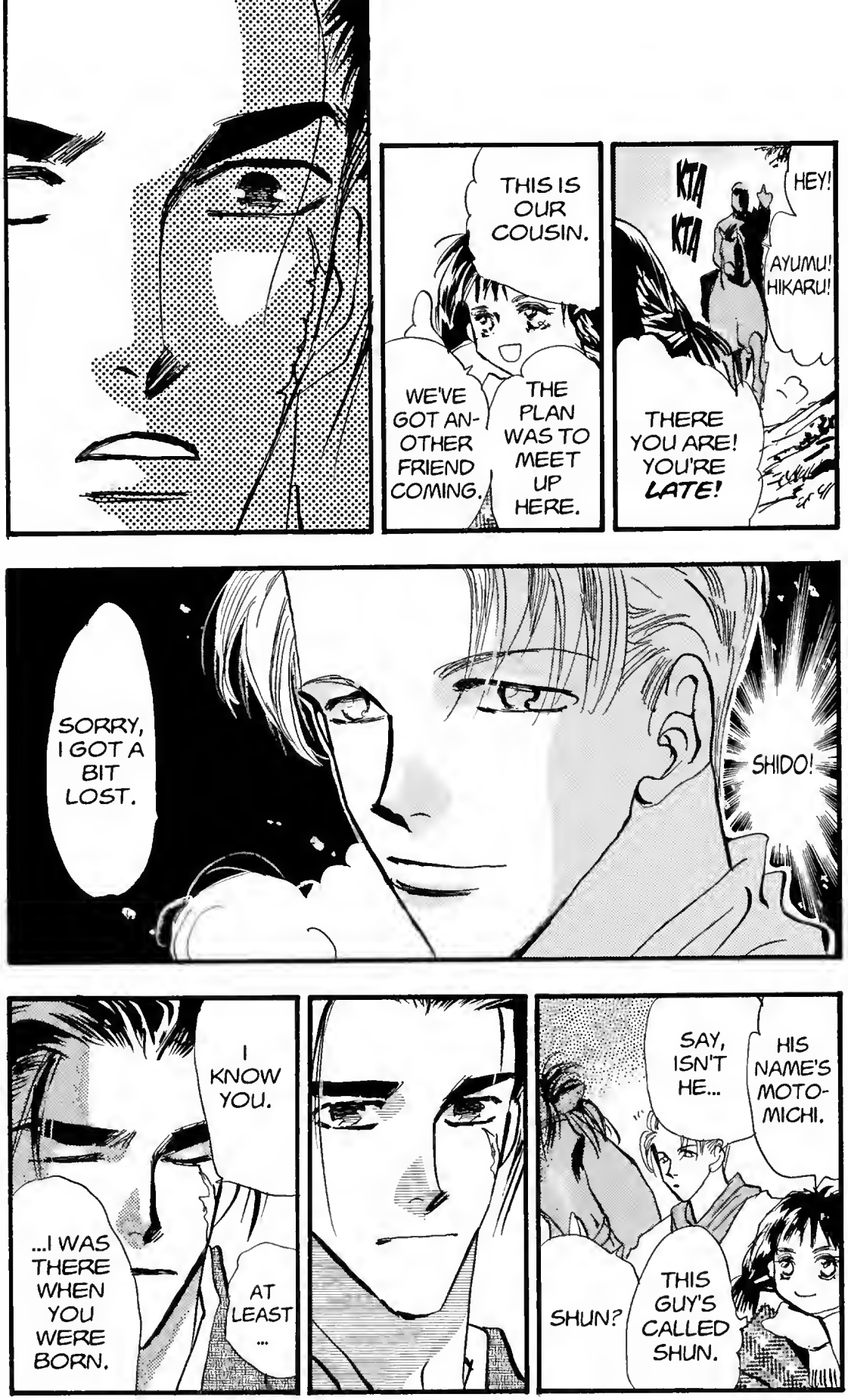
WHAT?
...YOU WERE IN THE TATARA ARMY WITH MY MOTHER?
YOU MEAN ...
I KNOW THEM...
OH YEAH! OF COURSE WE HAVE!
HAVE YOU HEARD STORIES?
OH MY GOSH, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
PCH POP
THAT SMELLS SOOO GOOD!
CAN WE HAVE SOME?
ROAST POTATOES?
NO.
BOO.
WHAT? NEVER HEARD OF ANYONE LIKE THAT!
GRMBL
...
SHUN.

WE'VE HEARD A TON OF STORIES ABOUT NAGI AND KAKU.
NACHI AND HIJIRI ARE SUCH CHARACTERS. THEY'RE A RIOT.
YOU KNOW ABOUT EVERYONE?
HOT!
YEAH.
SURE.
AS MANY AS YOU WANT.
WE HEAR LOTS OF STORIES ABOUT KIKU AND ICHIMATSU.
KIKU COMES TO REPAIR MY DAD'S ARM.
AND THEN, LET'S SEE... WHO ELSE?
THERE'S TAMON AND RAIZO...
YEAH.
WE GO TO OKINAWA OFTEN...
RIGHT?
SO WE'RE FRIENDS WITH THE GANG THERE!
... YOUNG CHACHA AT SEA A LOT.
AND WE SEE OLD ...
I MEAN ...
TM TM
OH YEAH, DUH.
YEAH, HIM.
A BIG ONE!
SIGH
AND?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ANYONE?

...WE HEARD ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE WHO DIED, TOO.
AND THEN ...
MOM STILL GETS TEARY-EYED OVER THEM.
BUT DAD HATES HEARING ABOUT HIM.
DAD'S TOUGH, BUT HE CAN GET HIS FEELINGS HURT.
SOME-THING MUST'VE HAPPENED BETWEEN THEM.
ASAGI!
HAYATO!
OH, I KNOW!
SHE SAID HE WAS ALWAYS GETTING INTO TROUBLE!
UMM.
HMM.
THERE'S ONE MORE.
DO YOU REMEM-BER?
AND HE SAVED HER LIFE MANY TIMES.
BUT HE WAS A FANTASTIC ARCHER, TOO.

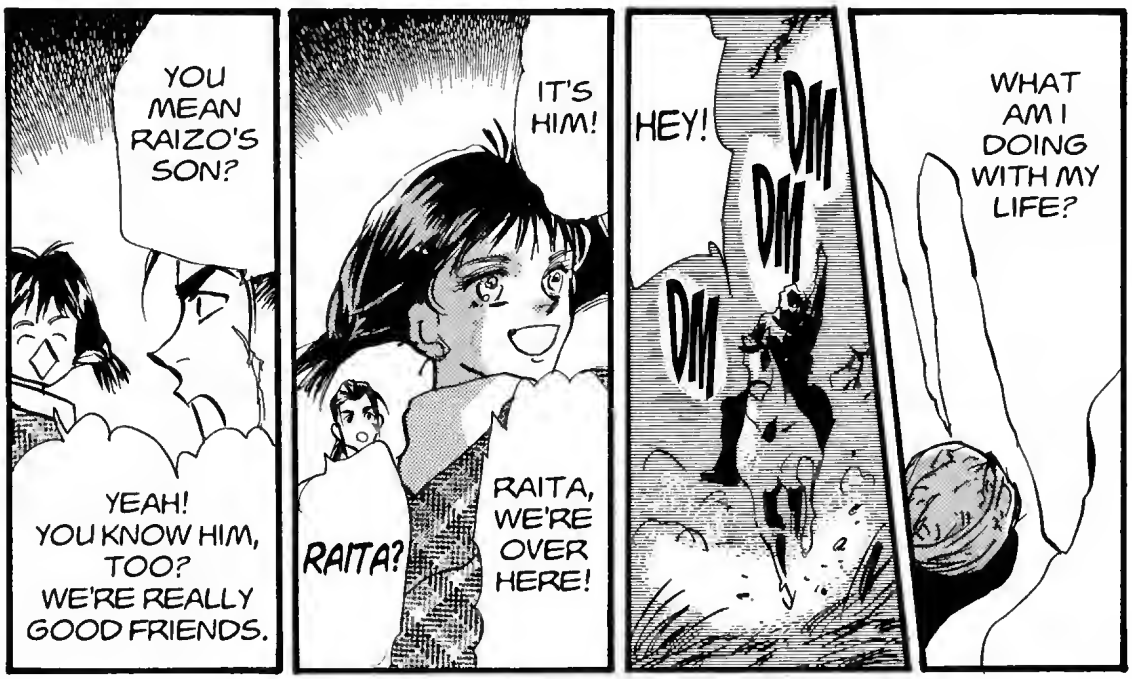
SHE SAYS HE MUST BE PRETTY AWESOME BY NOW, ALL GROWN UP.
HE'S PROBABLY WORKING HARD IN HIS NEW LIFE.
RIGHT?
YOUR PARENTS GET ALONG?
OH, THEY'RE ALL OVER EACH OTHER!
IT'S SICKENING.
WHAT DO THEY DO?
HUH?
LIKE WE SAID...
...OUR PARENTS RUN GREEN TRADING, INC.
THEY'RE INTRODUCING JAPANESE CULTURE TO EUROPE.
THEY SAY IT'LL BE GOOD FOR OUR COUNTRY TO GET WORLD-WIDE RECOGNITION...
OF ITS CULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

THEY LOVE JAPAN.
THEY STOP BY FOR WORK A LOT...
...BUT THEY'RE TOO BUSY TO SEE EVERY-ONE.
BUT WE DISEMBARK AND WANDER AROUND ANYWAY.
EUROPE WAS ONCE COMPOSED OF MANY COUNTRIES.
NOW IT'S BEEN UNIFIED INTO ONE.
THE CURRENCY WAS CONSOLI-DATED FIRST.
MY FATHER WAS IMPRESSED THAT THERE ARE WAYS TO UNIFY A COUNTRY THROUGH ECONOMIC, NOT MILITARY, MEANS.
WE CAN LEARN.
BUT MOM'S SURE THE OLD GANG IS TAKING CARE... OF JAPAN'S FUTURE.
KTA
KTA
KTA
KTA

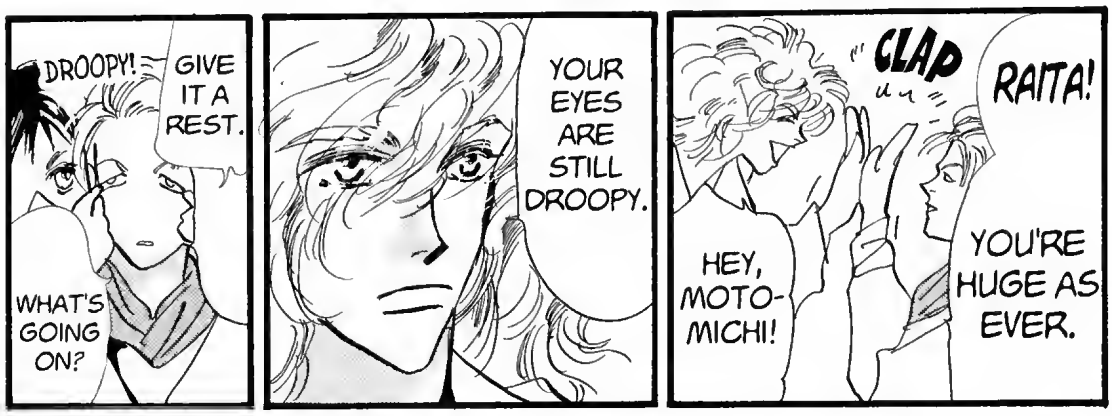

THIS IS OUR COUSIN.
WE'VE GOT ANOTHER FRIEND COMING.
THE PLAN WAS TO MEET UP HERE.
KTA KTA
HEY!
AYUMU! HIKARU!
THERE YOU ARE! YOU'RE LATE!
SORRY, I GOT A BIT LOST.
SHIDO!
I KNOW YOU.
...I WAS THERE WHEN YOU WERE BORN.
AT LEAST ...
SAY, ISN'T HE...
HIS NAME'S MOTOMICHI.
SHUN?
THIS GUY'S CALLED SHUN.

YOUR MOTHER GAVE BIRTH ...
...IN A STABLE. IT WAS A STRESSFUL LABOR.
SHE TELLS ME ALL THE TIME.
SO YOU MUST BE ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO TOOK CARE OF HER.
HE'S STUDYING TO BE A CIVIL SERVANT!
HE'S SO SMART!
I WANT TO GIVE MY MOTHER PEACE OF MIND.
AWW...
ISN'T IT SO TOUCHING?
HEY!
CAN I HAVE ANOTHER POTATO?
HAVE ONE, MOTOMICHI!
AS MANY AS YOU WANT.
WHEE!
I NEVER IMAGINED THIS DAY WOULD COME...

TATARA, YOU'RE WORKING HARD.
YOU'RE THINKING OF THE FUTURE...
...AND STRIVING TOWARDS IT.
WHAT ABOUT ME?


WHAT AM I DOING WITH MY LIFE?
HEY!
DM
DM
DM
IT'S HIM!
RAITA, WE'RE OVER HERE!
RAITA?
YOU MEAN RAIZO'S SON?
YEAH! YOU KNOW HIM, TOO? WE'RE REALLY GOOD FRIENDS.

I SAW A GROUP OF SOLDIERS HEADING EAST!
SNEAKING AROUND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT? THERE'S GOTTA BE A REASON!
HEY!
HIIN
I WAS JUST DOWN THE HILL!
SOME-THING WEIRD'S GOING ON!


DROOPY!
GIVE IT A REST.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOUR EYES ARE STILL DROOPY.
CLAP
RAITA!
HEY, MOTO-MICHI!
YOU'RE HUGE AS EVER.

MURA-TAKE?
SHF
FEDERAL SOLDIERS ARE HEADING EAST.

THE LORD GREW TIRED OF WAITING IT OUT.
HE'S PLANNING TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE KANTO REGION BY FORCE.
HE ALSO ORDERED THE ASSASSI-NATION OF HIJIRI.
I'M GONNA GO TELL MY DAD!
TRY TO STALL THEM!
DM DM
BE CAREFUL, RAITA!
SAY WHAT?
WHAT CENTURY ARE WE IN?
WE'LL MAKE A HUGE SPLASH.
HOW SHOULD WE STALL THEM?
THAT WOULDN'T BE NICE TO THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO LIVE HERE.
AYUMU!
DESTROY THE BRIDGE AND BURY THEM IN A MUDSLIDE!

LET'S MAKE IT SUBTLE...
...AND USE FIRE.
HOW IS THAT SUB-TLE?
YOU RADI-CAL.
WHEE! FIRE!
DO YOU HAVE ANY FUEL? AND KINDLING?
OH, SHUN, THIS'LL BE DANGEROUS, SO STAY BACK!
GOT A BOW?
YUP.
WE'LL DO THIS IN STYLE.
SHK
SHK
SHK

WE HAD A VISION FOR THE COUNTRY...

...WHEN WE TRIED TO CHANGE IT WITH TATARA.

YES.
THEY'LL LEAVE.
AN AMBUSH WON'T WORK ONCE THEY'VE BEEN FOUND.
YOU'RE SUCH EXTREMISTS.
LIKE YOUR PARENTS.
HMM.
BUT WILL THIS HAVE ANY EFFECT?
TOO LATE TO CHANGE NOW.
OIL'S ALL SET!
ALL RIGHT. WE'LL SEND UP A WALL OF FLAME IN FRONT OF THEM.
HIKARU, YOU'RE SO SMART!
TOO BAD YOU'RE SUCH A SLOW-POKE!
YUP.
SHF SHF
AND THE WALL OF FLAME WILL BE VISIBLE FROM THE KANTO REGION, TOO.
I'VE BEEN PRACTICING.
THIS'LL WORK ...
BMF
HERE.
THE "STYLE" PART.
PI
OOPS.

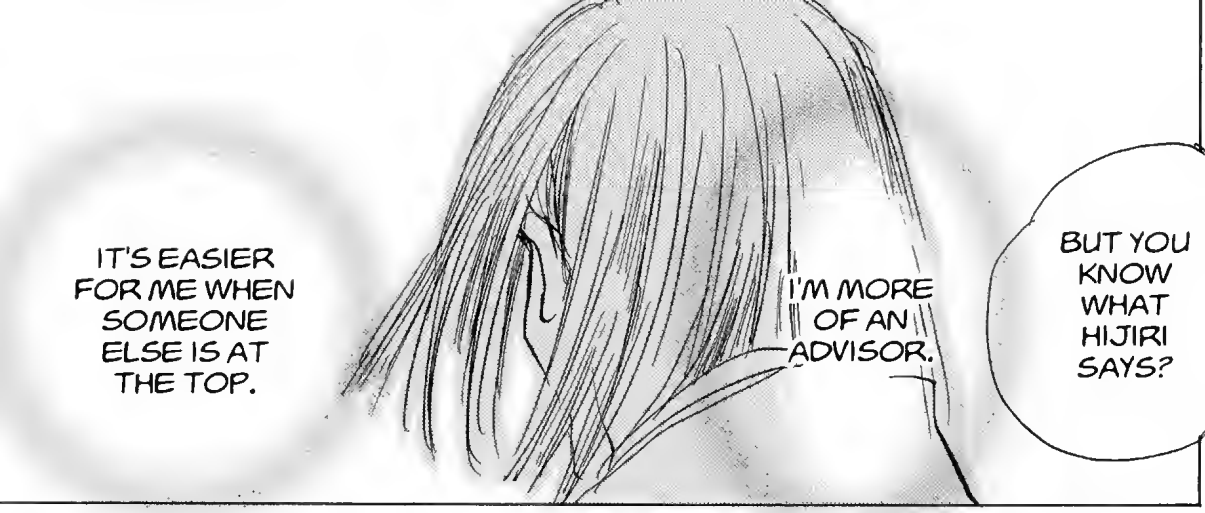
WAH
THEY'RE GONNA PASS US BY!
BOHNO
MOTO-MICHI, CAN YOU DO IT?
I'VE NEVER FIRED AN ARROW BE-FORE.
AWW!
I SUCK AT THIS!
I...
I KILLED YOUR FATHER.
THERE ARE MANY THINGS...
...I'VE TAKEN AND DESTROYED.

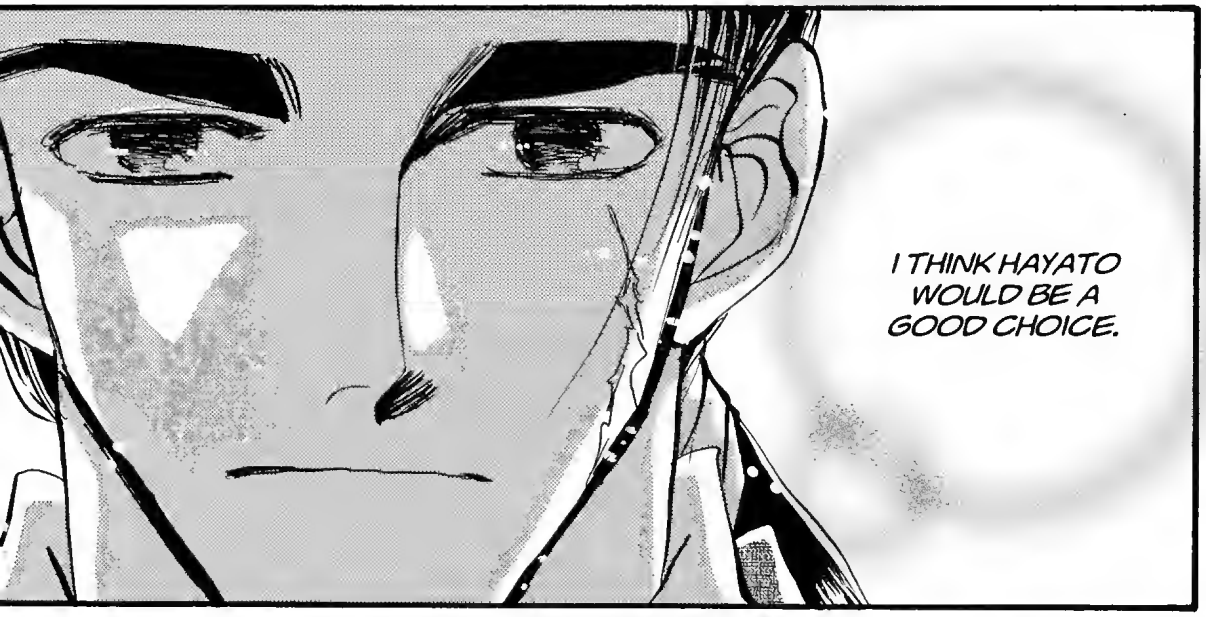
LET ME SEE.
UMM.
ARGH.
...I HAVE TO DO THE RIGHT THING.
TOO MANY.
THAT'S WHY...
DO MY JOB!
I HAVEN'T DONE THIS IN A WHILE!
HA

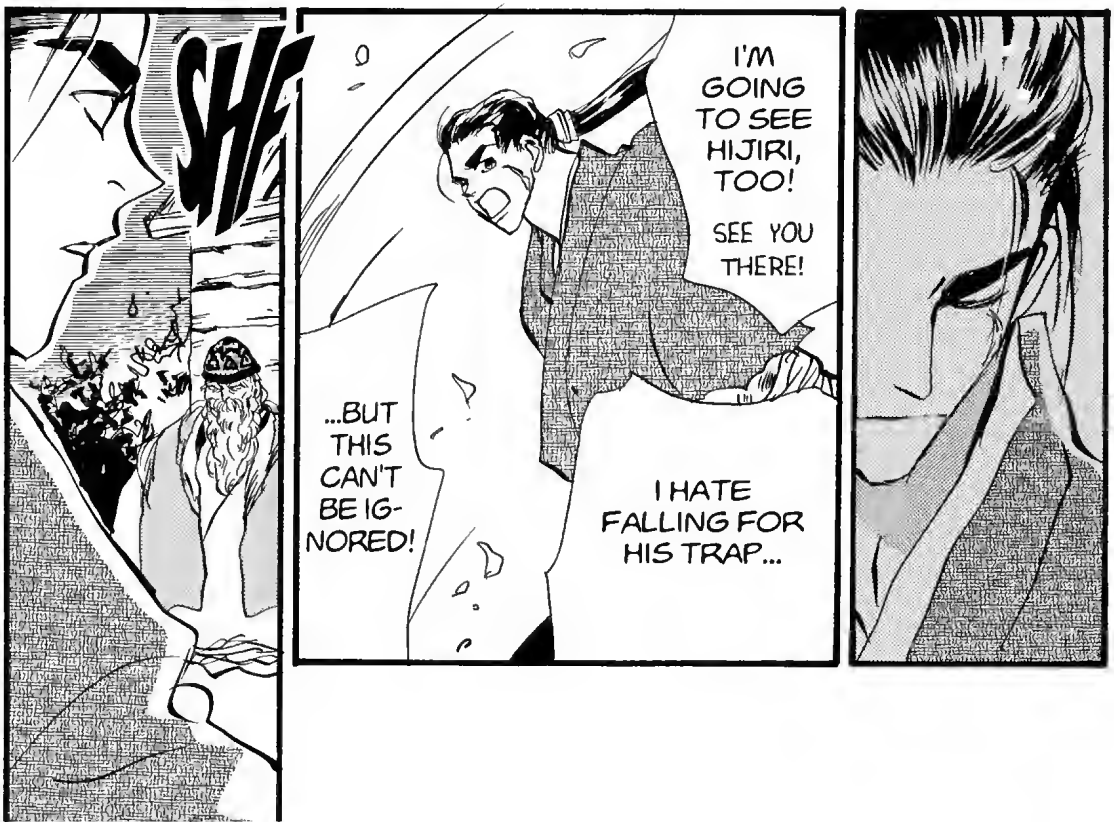
UP
BUT I'VE STILL GOT IT!
BV
WSH
BOOM
WAAH
I KNEW IT.
IT'S HIM.

YES. I'M HAYATO.
HOOO
THAT WAS AMAZING!
BULLSEYE!
ON THE FIRST TRY!
YOU'RE SO COOL!
NOOM
RUN!
FALL BACK!
WAH!
WAAH
THEY SAW US!
ENEMY ATTACK!

YOU HAVEN'T LOST YOUR TOUCH.
I'M GOING TO GO SEE HIJIRI.
MURA-TAKE.
WHO SENT THE KIDS HERE?
WAS IT HIJIRI'S IDEA?
ARGH, I'M SORRY!
WELL?
THEY BOTH POUNCED ON ME!
HE ASKED, AND I COULDN'T DENY IT!


IT'S EASIER FOR ME WHEN SOMEONE ELSE IS AT THE TOP.
I'M MORE OF AN ADVISOR.
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT HIJIRI SAYS?


I THINK HAYATO WOULD BE A GOOD CHOICE.


SHE
...BUT THIS CAN'T BE IG-NORED!
I'M GOING TO SEE HIJIRI, TOO!
SEE YOU THERE!
I HATE FALLING FOR HIS TRAP...

I DIDN'T TEACH YOU WOOD-WORK...
...BECAUSE I KNEW YOU'D NEVER BE A CRAFTS-MAN.
I'M SOR-RY.
IF YOU WANT TO EAT A NUT ...
...YOU HAVE TO CRACK THE SHELL OPEN.
BUT IF YOU WANT IT TO GROW, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS DROP IT ON THE GROUND.
THE SHELL DOESN'T HAVE TO BE FORCED OPEN.
BY THE TIME IT WANTS TO GET OUT...
I RECKON THE SHELL WILL BE GONE.

HM.
I HAVE ONE LAST REQUEST.
THANK YOU.
MY SON DIED IN THE REVO-LUTION.
JUST BE SURE YOU STAY ALIVE.
IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT.
I'M ONE OF THE SURVIVORS OF THE REVOLU-TION, THAT'S ALL.
WOW, SO YOU WERE A GOVERN-MENT BIGWIG!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
DON'T YOU CARE AT ALL THAT I'M LEAVING?
WELL, GOOD LUCK.
BE SURE TO COME VISIT SOME-TIME.
WE'LL BE CHEER-ING FOR YOU.

I CAN'T LEAVE GRAND-PA...
I GOT HIS PERMIS-SION ALREADY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
COME WITH ME.
...I CAN'T ASK YOU...
TO STAY, CAN I?
BUT...
IT MIGHT NOT BE THE MOST COMFORT-ABLE LIFE.
BUT I WANT YOU TO BE WITH ME.
THERE'LL BE DANGERS, TOO.

UM.
EXCUSE ME. I'M FROM GREEN TRADING, INC.
I'LL NEVER MAKE GUN PARTS!
KARAK
HMPH.
HIC
WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO BUSINESS WITH US?
IN EUROPE, WALNUT WOOD IS USED TO MAKE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, LIKE PIANOS.
AND FURNITURE, OF COURSE.
GOOD WITH OLD MEN.
AYUMU ...
THE WORLD WANTS YOU!
HO HO HO!
MUSIC ...
MUCH BETTER THAN WEAP-ONS.

...I HAD SO MUCH ENERGY.
WHEN I WAS THEIR AGE...
I COULD ONLY SEE WHAT WAS AHEAD OF ME.
I'VE GROWN UP A LITTLE.
I REFLECT ON THE PAST ONCE IN A WHILE, TOO.
I'VE SLOWED DOWN, GROWN MORE OBSTINATE.
BUT...

...BECAUSE I'M OLDER...
...THERE ARE MORE THINGS I CAN DO.
I'M GOING ON ANOTHER JOURNEY WITH YOU.
SWORD OF SUZAKU.
IMMORTAL PHOENIX.
WATCH ME, TATARA.
I'LL TAKE CHARGE OF THIS COUNTRY.

I'LL LIVE MY LIFE RIGHT!
WAKABA: END.

TAM-TAM COMIC STRIP
THIS MIGHT'VE HAPPENED: ①
TAMU
I GAVE BIRTH...
...TO TWINS!
THERE ARE SOME NAMES I REALLY LIKE.
YOU KNOW WHAT?
PICK WHAT YOU WANT!
SURE!
NO.
AGEHA AND ASAGI.

TAM-TAM COMIC STRIP
THIS MIGHT'VE HAPPENED: ②
TAMU
...THERE ARE NAMES I LIKE, TOO!
IF THAT'S THE CASE...
SHIDO AND KAZAN ARE OUT OF THE QUESTION.
SHI...
KA...
SHI...
I SAID THEY'RE OUT OF THE QUESTION.
SH...
SHINY... KART...

ONE-PAGE FINAL HELLO

TAM-TAM TIME

TAMU.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SUPPORTING *BASARA* FOR SO MANY YEARS!

THIS LONG-AWAITED VOLUME WILL BE THE FINAL INSTALLMENT.

"HAKAMA" AND "SARASA" ARE BRAND-NEW STORIES I DREW JUST FOR THE BOOK. I REALLY WANTED TO INCLUDE THIS LAST ONE AT THE VERY END TO COMPLETE THE STORY.

I HOPE YOU LIKE THEM!

"KANATA," "TAKARA" AND "WAKABA" RAN IN THE *BASARA EXTRAS* SUPPLEMENT. "SARABA" APPEARED IN MY ARTBOOK, IN FULL COLOR!

"PAJAMA" RAN IN *BASARAN*, THE BOOK I PUBLISHED MYSELF (IT'S NO LONGER AVAILABLE). IT WAS ONLY SOLD AT A CON, SORRY.

I FELT THE LOVE OF SO MANY PEOPLE THROUGH THIS MANGA. THANK YOU!!

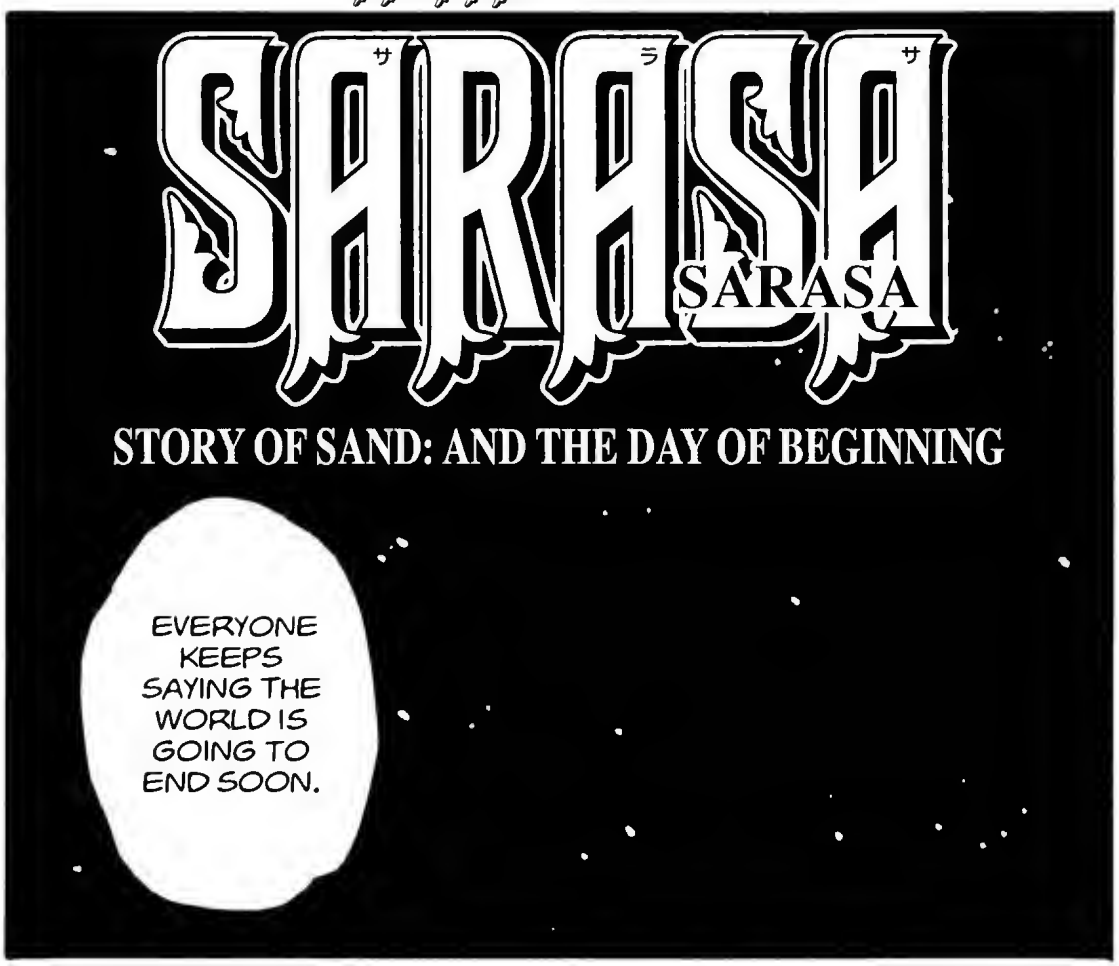
IT MADE ME SO HAPPY. GOOD LUCK TO EVERYONE! I'LL KEEP WORKING HARD, TOO.

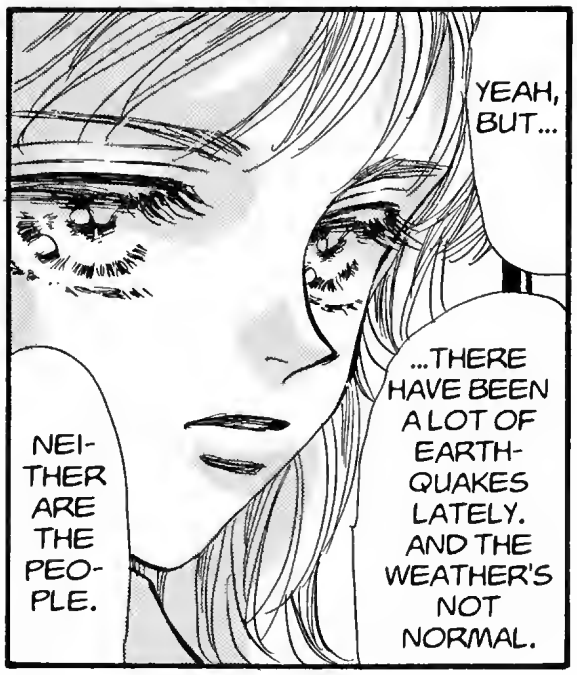
SEE YOU AGAIN!!

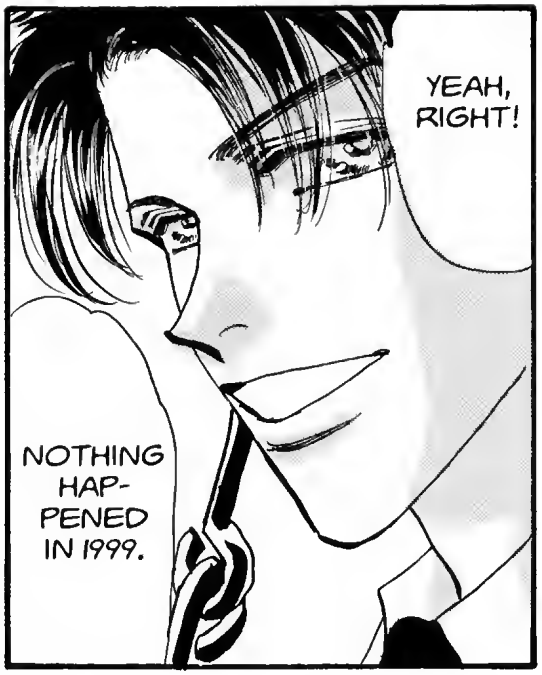
YUMI TAMURA

I HAVE A NEW MANGA CALLED *BOX-KEI!* IN *BETSU-COMI* MAGAZINE. CHECK IT OUT!

MY CAT BILLY PASSED AWAY ON JULY 8, 1999. HE WAS 15 YEARS OLD.


SARASA
SARASA
STORY OF SAND: AND THE DAY OF BEGINNING
EVERYONE KEEPS SAYING THE WORLD IS GOING TO END SOON.

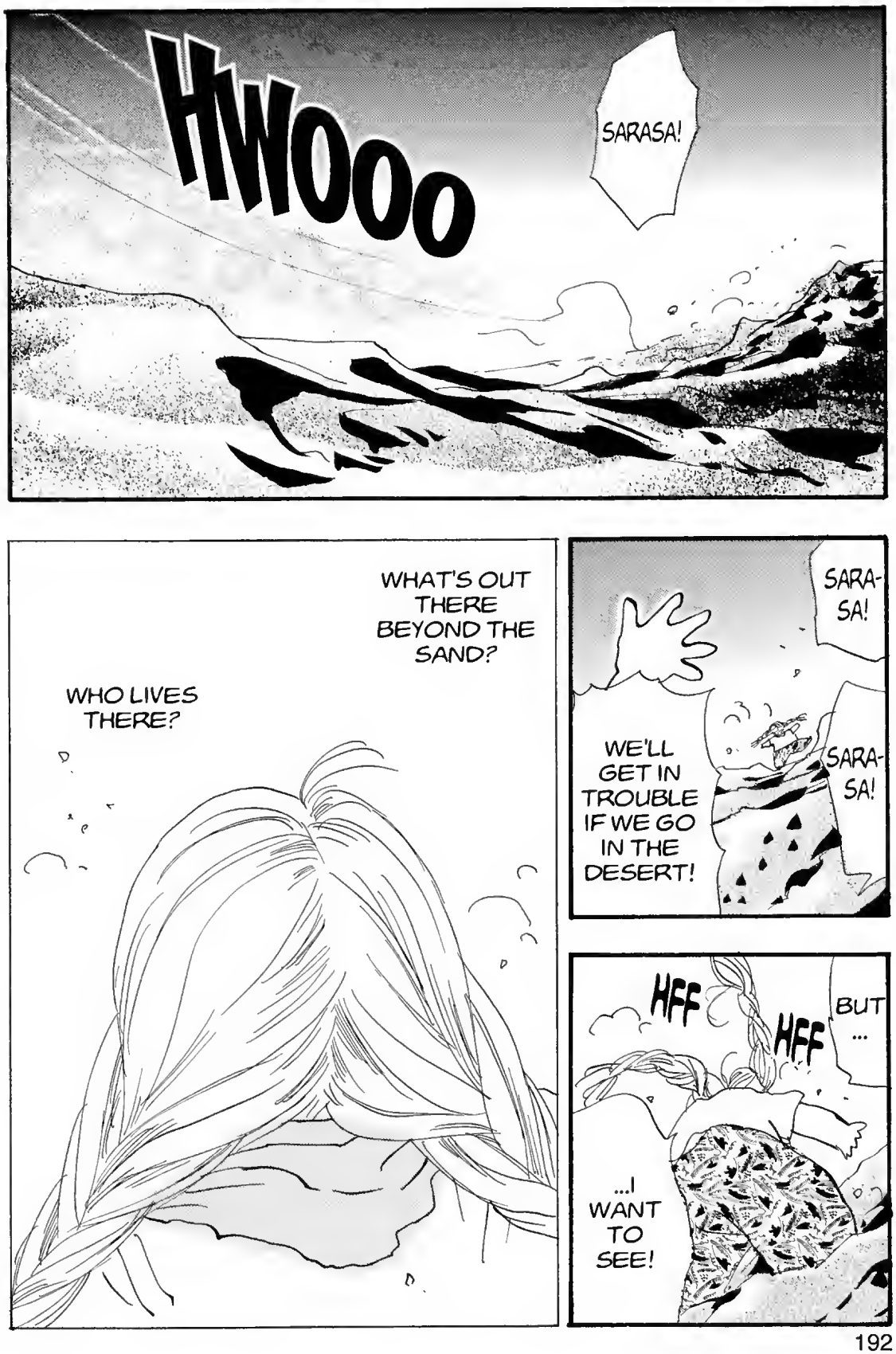

YEAH, BUT...
...THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF EARTH-QUAKES LATELY. AND THE WEATHER'S NOT NORMAL.
NEI-THER ARE THE PEO-PLE.


YEAH, RIGHT!
NOTHING HAP-PENED IN 1999.

TMF
YOUR DAD IS THE ONE...
WHO SCARES ME THE MOST!
AND YOUR BROTHER!
KRII
KRII
LET'S GO.
I'LL WALK YOU HOME.
I DON'T WANT TO...
...GO HOME.
WILL WE STILL BE TO-GETHER ...
...AFTER THE END OF THE WORLD?

IT'D TAKE SOME LUCK.
THAT DOESN'T SEEM TOO LIKELY.
NO?
OKAY, OKAY.
LOOK ...
...I PRO-MISE I'LL BE WITH YOU.
WHAT?
HEY.

WE WILL.
...I'M SURE ...
WE WILL.
BUT...
I DON'T BELIEVE IN REINCARNATION.
YOU DON'T?
DO YOU THINK WE CAN MEET AGAIN...
...IN OUR NEXT LIVES?


HWOOO
SARASA!
WHAT'S OUT THERE BEYOND THE SAND?
WHO LIVES THERE?
SARA-SA!
WE'LL GET IN TROUBLE IF WE GO IN THE DESERT!
SARA-SA!
HFF
HFF
BUT ...
...I WANT TO SEE!

SARASA: END.